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Nothing wrong in caste count, says Supreme Court

It is not within the top court's domain to decide if caste enumeration should be part of Census 2027, says CJI; until the 2011 Census, the exercise included enumeration of only SC,STs

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

> Any government of the day must know how many people are backward and how many need welfare. This is a matter of policy.
>
> **SURYA KANT**
> Chief Justice of India

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said there was nothing wrong in the government of the day ascertaining caste as part of the nationwide Census exercise.

"Any government of the day must know how many people are backward and how many need welfare. This is a matter of policy," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading a three-judge Bench, said.

The top court was responding to a plea filed by petitioner-in-person Sudhakar Gummula that caste enumeration should not be made part of Census 2027.

"There are endless possibilities of politicians and corporate entities misusing the caste data. There is no justification for gathering such a large tract of data on caste," Mr. Gummula submitted.

The Chief Justice said it was not within the court's domain to decide whether a caste enumeration should necessarily be a part of Census 2027 or not.

"This issue exclusively comes within the policy domain," the CJI said before the court dismissed the petition.

The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs had decided to include caste enumeration in Census 2027 in April 2025. Since then, caste enumeration has emerged as a major feature of the Census. Until the 2011 Census, the exercise had included the systematic enumeration of only Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The government had said on the floor of Parliament about the incorporation of the caste enumeration in the second phase of Census 2027.

The first phase involved the collection of the House Listing Operation (HLO) information regarding housing conditions, assets, amenities and so on of each household.

The second phase, Population Enumeration, would involve the collection of demographic, socio-economic, cultural and other details.

Former Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar had said that "thoughtfully collected caste data would be an instrument of integration, like an MRI of the body".

The last comprehensive nationwide caste Census was conducted in colonial India in 1931.

Steel, cement help quicken April core sector growth

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Growth in activity in the eight core sectors of the economy quickened marginally to 1.7% this April, up from 1.2% in March, official data released on Wednesday showed.

Data on the Index of Eight Core Industries released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry saw a significant revision of the growth rate for March – now coming in at 1.2% compared to the preliminary contraction of 0.4% that had originally been reported for the month.

The steel sector saw growth come in at 6.2% in April, as compared to a newly revised growth of 7.7% in March.

Similarly, the cement sector saw growth quicken to a three-month high of 9.4% in April. Here, too, the growth rate for March was revised upwards to 4.7%. Meanwhile, the domestic crude oil sector contracted 3.9% in April, marking the eighth consecutive month of contraction.

The natural gas sector slumped into a contraction of 4.3% in April due to the energy crisis brought on by the war in West Asia.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

India, Italy seal defence pact, elevate ties to 'special strategic partnership'

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India and Italy have been in continuous contact over the conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, reiterating his call for "dialogue and diplomacy" to resolve the festering wars. Delivering a press statement in Rome at the end of his multi-nation Europe trip, Mr. Modi described India-Italy relation as a "win-win partnership", and welcomed the upgrade of bilateral ties to the level of "Special Strategic Partnership".

"We have remained in continuous contact over Ukraine, West Asia, and other areas of hostilities.

India has a clear position that all problems should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy," Mr. Modi said in his press statement.

"I am happy that we are upgrading our ties to the level of Special Strategic Partnership," he said.

The Ministry of External Affairs said that the Special Strategic Partnership will lead to strengthened cooperation in trade, technology, defence, clean energy and innovation as well as in the field of mobility of skilled and non-skilled workers through safe and secure channels. The two sides also sealed a "Defence Industrial Road Map", an MoU on cooperation in critical minerals, and another agreement for cooperation between the Italian Corps of the Guardia di Finanza and the ED.

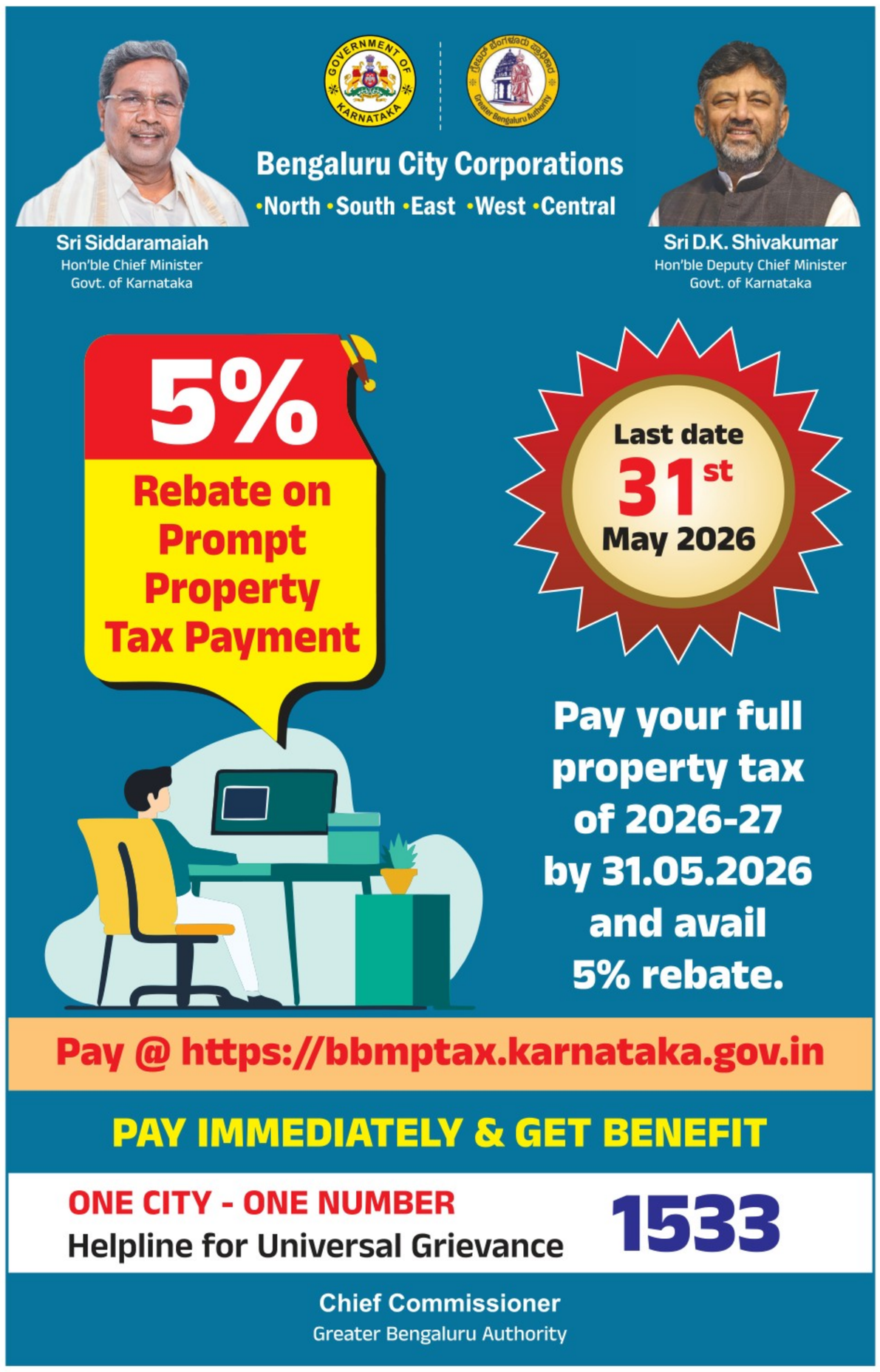
A Joint Statement issued on the occasion of Mr. Modi's visit announced that the two sides have signed an agreement on agriculture and agricultural research that will connect Ministries and institutions of India and Italy.

The two sides also expressed commitment "to a free, open, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific, in line with international law, including UNCLOS."

Turning to the situation in the Gulf region, the Joint Statement called for "freedom of navigation and the resumption of global flows through Strait of Hormuz".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Sweet gift: Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifts 'Melody' toffees to Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in Rome on Wednesday. ANI



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NEARBY

Apex court sets Aug. 31 deadline for GBA polls

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court of India on Wednesday said the Karnataka government seems to be deploying "delaying tactics" to postpone GBA polls while extending the deadline for the elections to August 31.
» PAGE 2

Start tender process for 800 KPS, says CM

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has instructed officials of the School Education and Literacy Department to start the tender process to open 800 KPS across the State. » PAGE 6

'Replace open safari jeeps with safer buses'

BENGALURU
Open safari vehicles have been banned in Karnataka's tiger reserves and wildlife sanctuaries. The Environment Minister instructed that buses equipped with iron meshes be deployed. » PAGE 8

At peace with pressure: Understanding Jyothi Surekha

With compound archery heading to the Olympics, India's most decorated archer is learning to carry the weight of certainty

K.V.S. GIRI

Anirudh Velamuri
VIJAYAWADA

Jyothi Surekha Vennam has collected more than 90 medals across the Asian Games, Asian and World Championships, World Cups, and beyond, but numbers alone fail to capture what she has become. In Indian sport, she exists in a rare category of athlete: the kind who is expected to win before the first arrow is even drawn. A sure shot, as they call it. A burden disguised as praise.

With compound archery preparing for its Olympic debut at the 2028 Los Angeles Games, that certainty is set to be amplified into something brighter, heavier, harder to ignore. It is in this gathering light that *The Hindu* travelled to Vijayawada - crossing a river (Krishna) she once mastered as a five-year-old (which rocketed her into the Limca Book of Records) - to meet one of the country's most formidable athletes.

Her world does not announce itself. It hides in plain sight. A gated community. A door no different from the others. A home that could belong to anyone - until it does not. Inside, silence gives way to shimmer. Medals catch the light like fragments of a long, relentless conversation with time.

What was once a bedroom has surrendered itself to memory, becoming a walk-in archive of effort and repetition, of early mornings, missed shots, and moments of precision. Even now, it overflows - trophies resting where there is no space left for them. It is here that the 29-year-old sat down, surrounded by the evidence of everything she had done, to speak not just of winning, but of carrying what winning leaves behind and what lies ahead.

Thrown into the deep end

Long before the plethora of medals, before the expectation that she would never return home "empty-handed," before compound archery finally found its place at the Olympics, Surekha was an eight-year-old crying because she did not want to take up archery after getting used to the routine of swimming.

Sports ran in the family. Her grandfather was a physical education teacher who trained athletes for kabaddi. Her father, Vennam Surendran Kumar, played the sport himself at the college level before moving on to a career in veterinary science. Surendran and his wife, Sri Durga, made every major decision regarding their daughter's involvement in sports.

"My parents chose archery mostly because it's an individual game and involves more concentration and focus," Surekha explained. The idea to pick the compound vertical was to allow her the space to also balance her academics.

It was not love at first sight for Surekha with archery. The affection arrived gradually. When she struck six gold medals at her first nationals, at the U-13 level in 2008, the sport latched on to her, permanently now. Unsurprisingly, the narration of one of the most consequential moments of her life comes with restraint: "I was like... okay, I am happy with it."

International archery wasn't as instantly rewarding. Silvers and bronzes kept getting collected, but golds were elusive at first. "It took me 12 World Cups to win a medal, and there were situations where people were coming into the team for the first time and they won one. I often asked myself, 'Why am I not able to win a medal in the World Cup?' I was really upset about it for a long time."

Earning her flowers

That drought would end in 2018.

"That year was really great because in all four stages of the World Cup, we won bronze in the mixed team event, and I also got to win two silvers in the women's team category as well."

Each year of the nearly two decades she has spent in archery has seen a generous sprinkling of medals across tiers of competition. But a few moments stand out. The 2023 Archery World Cup is one of them, where she shot 713 out of a possible 720 in the first stage in Antalya to match the erstwhile world record.

"Funnily, in training, I felt I was missing something. I was not confident at all. But I knew that it takes just one shot or a single feeling to bring you back. During the qualification, someone shot 360 while I had shot 353, which wasn't too bad. In the second half, I shot a full 360. It's something I haven't even done in practice. That was the first and last time I managed that (laughs)."

Her first individual medal was another memorable milestone, coming at the 2019 World championships. Her first individual World Cup medal came in Paris in 2022. The Jyothi Surekha formula for success and crawling out of a rut is as simple and no-nonsense as she herself is. Three hours of practice in the morning, three hours in the second half, plus one hour of physical activity accompanying either session. Journaling and visualisation sessions also figure without a break in her timetable. "I just visualise that I am there in an arena, shooting my best. I focus on the process, how I want to execute a shot and make sure I visualise doing it at the same place repeatedly so it doesn't seem new to me when I get there." And when things work, the 'celebration' is just as simple. "Most of the time, when I win, I call my parents. We talk about ice cream. No particular flavour, just any ice cream."

Many of the medals adorning the walls of Surekha's house were victories without an audience. So when she became one of the youngest recipients of the prestigious Arjuna Award in 2017, it was vindication for her, yes, but more for her parents.

"My parents always wanted me to earn the Arjuna Award. When it did come, my father kept reminding me that this should now spur me on to be more responsible and keep giving my best."

It did. She went from strength to strength. Among her achievements was a sensational triple gold at the Hangzhou Asian Games in 2023, where she scooped up top honours in the women's individual, mixed team and women's team events, becoming the first Indian to win multiple gold medals in archery at a single Asian Games.

Perhaps, the relentlessness of the drive her parents prioritised to keep achieving tinges her father's voice when he expresses regret that she is yet to make the recipient list of the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna honour, the country's highest sporting award.

What could tip the scales? An Olympic medal, maybe?

Surekha's career coincides fortunately with the induction of her category in the roster for the Los Angeles Games in 2028. When the announcement came through, she was in Florida with the Indian team.

"It was the first day of the World Cup. After our session was completed, we had our lunch and were waiting for our bus when suddenly, World Archery people came around capturing reactions to the news. Every compound archer was really happy. I immediately called my parents."

She, however, was quick to put that joy into perspective. One that came from finding satisfaction in a discipline that has long survived outside the halo of the revered quadrennial extravaganza. "Olympics is just the name of the event. It's the same archers who are competing at the World championships, World Cups and more. In India, nothing else matters besides the Olympics. But it's not true. There are many tournaments just as big."

Otherwise happy to make do with a few words in her responses, Surekha's thoughts reflect immense clarity.

"That perspective needs to change. Because maybe if it does, maybe if the Olympics are not given that much priority, the athletes who are competing there can perform even more freely without any pressure and give their best performance and win more medals for our country."

Still, the importance of the platform and its positives, particularly for compound archery, is not lost on her. "If you look at history, when anyone wins a medal in the Olympics, that sport as a whole grows. For example, look at badminton, javelin throw and wrestling. There is so much hype that comes around for the person winning a medal and the sport they play. The interest automatically grows because of the publicity and that takes the sport to the next level."

Perhaps that is what makes Surekha such a compelling athlete to listen to right now. At a time when Indian sport increasingly celebrates noise, branding, and spectacle, she represents something quieter and far more enduring.

Discipline without drama. Ambition without arrogance. Confidence without demonstration. None of this happens in isolation. Surekha knows what it means to endure uncertainty. She knows what it means to chase excellence in a sport that does not always receive attention. She knows the emotional cost of expectation, the loneliness of underperformance, and the patience required to keep showing up. But through all of it, the thing she values most is remarkably human: the assurance that somebody will still be there when the competition ends.

"You have to believe in yourself, and you have to have a good support system, be it mentally or financially, to come into sports. If one has a strong familial support system, they're happy when you're successful. But, more importantly, they'll be fine if you aren't too."

Surekha has made the squad for the 2026 Asian Games in Japan. The drill remains the same. What will change are the eyeballs and the strengthening of the "she will bring home something" belief. "I have been listening to people saying that we know that you will not come empty-handed. I am fortunate that people think that way, that they trust, no matter what, that I'll bring back something."

By the time LA 2028 arrives, the spotlight around Surekha will only grow brighter. She will probably walk into that Olympic arena the same way she has walked into every other tournament in her life: without allowing the enormity of the moment to swallow her. Because long before the Olympics entered her category, Surekha had already mastered something far more difficult: separating who she is from what she wins.

THE GIST

- Surekha has won more than 90 medals across the Asian Games, World Championships, Asian Championships, and World Cups, quickly becoming one of the most consistent names globally in compound archery
- It took her 12 World Cups before she won a medal internationally, a period of frustration she credits to the success that followed thereafter
- Surekha standout moment came at Antalya 2023, where she shot 713/720 to match the world record — a score she says she has never replicated even in practice
- Triple gold at the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games made her the first Indian to win multiple archery golds at a single Asian Games

SC sets August 31 deadline for civic polls, flags 'tactics'

The apex court warns that this will be the State government's 'last chance', and there will be no extensions going forward

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The judicial order said the extension to August 31 was allowed after taking into consideration the "attenuating circumstances" placed before the court by the State government. FILE PHOTO

The Supreme Court of India on Wednesday said the Karnataka government seems to be deploying "delaying tactics" to postpone civic polls in Bengaluru while extending the deadline for the elections by another two months to August 31.

Shifting the time limit for the election from June 30 to August 31, the apex court said this would be the State government's "last chance", and there would be no further extensions.

"The matter gives an unnecessary impression that this is all delaying tactics on the part of the State," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading a three-judge Bench, remarked.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi and advocate Sanchit Garga, appearing for Karnataka, said the State had made every other arrangement, including the necessary budgetary allocations for the conduct of the polls.

However, there was a "manpower problem", requiring a "slight extension of 60 days".

Mr. Singhvi acknowledged that extensions had been sought in the past from the court. "I have asked for time many times," he submitted.

The hearing was based on applications filed by the State and the Karnataka State Election Commission (KSEC). They had originally sought time till September 30 to conduct the election.

However, the State later settled for a two-month extension of time.

The State said it was committed to its obligation to hold the polls "in the interests of justice and equity". It justified that the request for an extension of the deadline in the background of the Census and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls was "bona fide".

The KSEC had found the concerns raised by the State government authorities to be *prima facie* genuine, as the Census and SIR were stretching human resources in the State.

"Due to the deployment of the manpower by the State government for the purpose of conducting Census, Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, etc, the required manpower and logistics may be unavailable with the State government. It is, therefore, most humbly prayed that this Hon'ble Court may kindly grant an additional 3 months for concluding the elections," the poll body said.

The judicial order said the extension to August 31 was allowed after taking into consideration the "attenuating circumstances" placed before the court by the State government.

"However, it is made amply clear that no further extension shall be granted in this regard," the court emphasised.

Despite apex court rap, GBA likely to seek extension till December to hold elections

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

A view of the Greater Bengaluru Authority building in Bengaluru.

Notwithstanding the two-month extension till August 31 given by the Supreme Court, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), with intervention from the State government, will seek yet another extension – this time till December, to conduct the long-pending GBA elections.

This is despite the Supreme Court pulling up the Karnataka Government on Wednesday for 'deploying tactics' and terming the extension as its 'last chance.'

Speaking with *The Hindu*, officials said the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) schedule was officially announced only on May 14, barely a week before the hearing, and argued that conducting both exercises simultaneously with the same field staff would be "impossible". Meanwhile, a senior official added that they would also approach the Election Commission of India to understand how GBA polls and SIR activities are expected to run in parallel with the same human resources.

A corporation official said that a recent meeting was held with the senior officials from the Urban Development Department, where it was discussed that even an extension till September would not make the conduct of polls feasible as SIR activities will go till October.

"While seeking extension till September, we did not know about the SIR schedule. SIR for Karnataka was announced only on May 14. The activities will continue till October 7, and that too only if everything goes exactly as per schedule. How can we conduct GBA polls in the middle of this? The same officials are involved in house-to-house visits and the entire SIR process," an official said.

He added that even after SIR concludes, authorities would need at least another month to prepare for the polls and would therefore seek an extension till the end of December.

"In addition, conducting polls in December is also ambitious," the official further added.

GBA to approach ECI

Another senior GBA official said the GBA would approach the government, the Karnataka State Election Commission and the Election Commission of India to understand how to approach the polls and SIR now that the election schedule would have to be aligned with the SC's August 31 deadline. The official also expressed frustration that while the GBA had sought time till September, the court granted an extension only till August. SIR-related activities in Karnataka are scheduled to begin on June 20 with preparation, training and printing work, followed by house-to-house verification by BLOs from June 30 to July 29.

Draft electoral rolls are to be published on August 5, after which the claims and objections phase, notice hearings and corrections process will continue till the final rolls are published on October 7.

The National Census 2027 exercise – extended in Karnataka till May 22, along with SIR and monsoon preparedness, were cited by the GBA as key reasons while seeking a "slight extension". While the government has repeatedly cited a "manpower problem", voter mapping for SIR has already crossed 86% across Karnataka, with Bengaluru Urban alone crossing 75%. Census work, too, is nearing its deadline.

However, when confronted with this, GBA officials rejected suggestions that this reduces the burden and makes it feasible for elections.

The officials argued that the most difficult phase is yet to begin, particularly the claims and objections stage after publication of draft rolls, which would place "enormous pressure" on BLOs and enumerators and increase the risk of errors if both exercises are forced to run simultaneously.

Karnataka State Election Commissioner G.S. Sangreshi was not available for comment.

Opposition parties flay fresh delay in civic polls

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Opposition parties slammed yet another delay in conducting the civic polls.

Former BBMP ruling party leader N.R. Ramesh said it was "shameful" that the civic polls were being delayed again and again. He claimed the five-corporation model itself had failed, pointing out that there was no proper balance in ward populations while delimitation was done, with one ward having only 9,600 people, while another had more than 54,000. He also said that even months after the formation of the GBA framework, the required infrastructure is still not ready, while fresh reasons are being cited to postpone the elections. He said the BJP is prepared for the polls, but the Congress is not.

Meanwhile, the Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP) said Bengaluru has not had an elected city government since 2020 and accused the State government of repeatedly delaying the polls. The BNP said the city has been run only by bureaucrats for years, which has led to poor civic administration and infrastructure, and demanded that elections be held within the court-set deadline.

Rishvanjas Rishi Raghavan, youth wing leader of the BNP, said Bengaluru had been denied "the most basic layer of democracy" for nearly six years, as citizens were left without elected councillors they could hold accountable. "Through garbage crises, flooding, broken roads and failing footpaths, we have had no councillor to question," he said.

Calling the Supreme Court's extension till August 31 the final indulgence, he requested the State government and Election Commission to treat the deadline as final.

No one from the Congress was available for comment.

'Engage with retired personnel for better policing'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Director-General and Inspector-General of Police M.A. Saleem has directed all police stations and unit officers across Karnataka to maintain regular engagement with retired police personnel, describing them as valuable assets to the department owing to their vast field experience and institutional knowledge.

In a reminder issued on Monday, Mr. Saleem said that the retired officers and staff could significantly contribute to community policing by sharing information related to anti-social activities, drug peddling, smuggling and other unlawful activities in the areas where they reside.

The directive noted that retired police personnel possess years of expertise in investigation, intelligence gathering, crime prevention, crowd control, traffic management and community policing, which can continue to benefit the department even after retirement.

As part of the initiative, all police stations have been instructed to maintain a dedicated register containing details of retired police officers and staff residing within their jurisdiction, including their rank, service details, contact numbers and addresses.

Police personnel have also been directed to periodically visit retired officers and maintain regular contact with them.

Man arrested for committing unnatural act with cow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Cottonpet police arrested a 24-year-old delivery executive on charges of committing an unnatural act with a cow sitting on a roadside at Akkipet in Bengaluru.

The incident, which occurred on May 5, came to light after CCTV footage of the act went viral on social media, triggering public outrage and demands for strict action against the accused.

Police said a *suo motu* case was registered on Sunday, following which investigators tracked down the accused using CCTV footage and technical evidence.

Police trace accused

According to the complaint filed by a police sub-inspector attached to the surveillance and monitoring unit at Cottonpet Police Station, the incident came to light on May 17 after a user on X posted a video alleging that a man had "sexually assaulted" a cow in Bengaluru and sought immediate action from the police.

The video, which was verified by the police, showed that the incident occurred around 1.47 a.m. on May 5 in Akkipet within Cottonpet police station limits.

The footage allegedly showed a man arriving on a two-wheeler, stopping near a cow lying on the roadside and waiting until the area was deserted before committing an unnatural sexual act with the animal.

Based on the video evidence, the police identified the location as Akkipet Gali Road and launched an investigation to trace the accused and initiate legal action.

The accused has been identified as Shabaz Alam, a delivery executive who had been residing in Cottonpet for the past month.

During the investigation, the police found that the accused had no prior criminal background.

The police said he has been booked under Section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and Section 325 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

The accused was produced before a court and remanded in judicial custody on Monday, the police said.

Drivers must exercise caution, anticipate the unexpected while driving inside bus stations: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that "a professional driver is duty-bound to exercise heightened caution and expected to drive the bus by expecting unexpected things to occur within the precincts of the bus station," the High Court of Karnataka upheld the conviction of a KSRTC driver who fatally knocked down a 75-year-old pedestrian inside the Chickballapur bus station in 2019.

Justice V. Srishananda made these observations while upholding the conviction of Nagaraj G.H., a resident of Tumakuru, for causing death by negligence under Section 304-A and rash driving under Section 279 of the Indian Penal Code, and the one-year sentence imposed by the trial court.

The petitioner, who was driving a bus, hit Chitrashekharappa near platform 14 while the victim, along with his wife, was searching for a bus; he later succumbed to his injuries.

The court expressed disapproval of the driver's defence strategy as, instead of explaining the circumstances, he had denied the occurrence of the accident entirely during his statement recorded under Section 313 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

"Since the bus was moving inside the bus station, if the accused had driven the bus at the required speed and with diligence, he could have applied the brake to avoid dashing against Chitrashekharappa. Such an explanation is not forthcoming in the accused's statement. Pertinently, in the spot mahazar, there is no brake marks noticed," the court pointed.

'Extra diligence'

Delving into the standard of care expected, the court remarked that the accused was required to exercise "extra diligence" precisely because he was driving inside the precincts of a bus station.

Rejecting the plea that the conviction would cost the petitioner his job and impact his family, the court held that such hardship cannot be treated as a mitigating circumstance to set aside the imprisonment, while directing him to surrender by May 31 to serve the remaining sentence.

CSR initiative turns 25 tribal women into Ayur Nurses

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Turning heads: The tribal women who graduated as certified Ayur Nurses in Wayanad. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Breaking systemic marginalisation, 25 tribal women from below poverty line (BPL) families in Kerala's Wayanad graduated as certified Ayur Nurses on Friday. The entire graduating cohort secured formal job placements, several weeks before completing their final examinations, from reputed Ayurveda and AYUSH hospitals based in Bengaluru.

The graduating group was selected following a rigorous screening of over 100 applicants from 13 distinct tribal villages across Wayanad. The comprehensive curriculum featured three months of theoretical classroom instruction followed by three months of clinical practical application in Ayurveda Panchakarma therapies and hands-on hospital internships. Trainees completed modules covering personal hygiene, professional grooming, etiquette, public speaking, and language proficiency in English, Hindi, and Kannada. These women received an intensive six-month training at the Ayurveda Nursing Training Institute in Meenangadi of Wayanad, a facility fully funded by the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) wing of ZEISS India, a Bengalauru-based India subsidiary of the 178-year-old German optics technology and instruments major Carl Zeiss. The on-the-ground execution was managed by Bharat Shodh, a non-governmental organisation.

"Empowering communities has always remained at the heart of our purpose, and this initiative reflects that commitment," said Dhaval Radia, chief financial officer of ZEISS India. Swami Padmaprakasha Jnanathapaswi, chairperson of Bharat Shodh, said the initative had bridged the gap between traditional knowledge and the increasing demand for alternative healthcare practices, including geriatric and postnatal care, in southern cities like Bengaluru.

Multiple ayurvedic hospitals and wellness clinics from Bengaluru, Chennai, and Wayanad were at the campus recruitment cycle, ensuring all 25 trainees secured employment ahead of graduation. Aswathy Narayanan, 21, who graduated as an Ayur Nurse, said: "In my village, most girls marry after the 10th grade, but I kept fighting and managed to complete my 12th standard. I thought that was the end of the road, although I dreamed of a good education and a job."

She said the training had changed her life. "This programme has given me more than just knowledge about traditional healthcare; it has given me a new life, a voice, and a bold personality. I also learned how to manage conversations in English, Hindi, and Kannada," she said.

Sperm whale 'clicks' have complex patterns similar to human speech

Researchers have revealed that sperm whales, which communicate using clicking sounds, also vary the sounds in ways that resemble how humans use vowels; these vocalisations show clear parallels with human phonology — the system of rules that organises sound patterns in human language

Anirban Mukhopadhyay
NEW DELHI

A sperm whale and her calf off the coast of Mauritius. Sperm whales communicate using short sequences of clicks known as codas. GABRIEL BARATHIEU (CC BY-SA)

Sperm whales communicate using short sequences of clicks known as codas, which they exchange while coordinating within their groups. Scientists have long classified these sequences using the number of clicks and the timing between them.

A study published on April 15 in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* has however reported that there is more to it than meets the ears: the codas also vary in their acoustic structure in ways that resemble patterns found in human speech.

"Before this work, sperm whale vocalisations were often treated as a kind of Morse code – simply patterns defined mainly by timing," Gasper Beguš, associate professor of linguistics at University of California, Berkeley, and senior author of the study, said. "What we are showing here is that there is another layer of structure within the clicks themselves."

A learnt structure

Until now, classification relied on two measurable features: the number of clicks in a sequence and the spacing between them, known as inter-click intervals. These patterns produce distinct coda types. For example, a 1+1+3 coda consists of two clicks separated by pauses, followed by three clicks in rapid succession, while a 5R coda contains five evenly spaced clicks. Because different whale groups use different sets of these patterns, the system is unlikely to be entirely inborn. Instead, scientists think at least part of it is learnt within groups.

When the researchers broke each click down into its frequency components, they found that the sounds fall into two distinct categories: some have a single dominant frequency peak, while others have two. In human linguistics, such peaks are known as formants – the resonant frequencies that allow us to distinguish an "ah" sound from an "ee." Consequently, the authors label these whale categories "a" and "i." These two types are clearly distinct, and the same pattern of clicks – for example, a 1+1+3 coda – can be produced using either the "a" click or "i" click.

Calling it a "fascinating finding," Mason Youngblood, a behavioural scientist at Stony Brook University, said the study shows that sperm whale communication "varies not just in timing but also in tonal quality," in ways similar to human vowels, suggesting the "signals may be able to convey more information than previously thought."

Two layers, then three

The two click types are not used in the same way across all codas. In some, such as the 1+1+3 pattern, both appear in roughly equal numbers. In others, one dominates, and in a few it is almost absent.

If click type were simply a side effect of sound production, this variation would be random. Instead, the patterns are consistent, suggesting that sperm whales control not just when they click, but also what kind of click they produce – treating timing and type as two separate features of their signals.

The researchers also identified several additional layers of variation in how codas are produced.

Codas in the two click types differ in length. Even when the pattern of spacing between clicks is the same, "a" codas are typically longer than "i" codas. In addition, the "i" category splits into two groups – some codas are short, while others are long – whereas the "a" category does not. This is similar to how the length of a sound can matter in human speech, where longer and shorter vowels can serve different functions.

They also found consistent differences between individual sperm whales. Even within the same coda pattern and click type, some whales produce longer sequences than others.

For example, the length of an "a" coda can differ by about 170 milliseconds between individuals. Despite this, "a" codas are still longer than "i" codas across all sperm whales, showing that while whales may sound different from one another, they follow the same underlying patterns.

> There are clear similarities, but also important differences... The fundamentally rhythmic nature of sperm whale codas, for example, sets them apart from human speech
>
> **MASON YOUNGBLOOD**
> Behavioural scientist,
> Stony Brook University

Finally, they found that one coda can influence the next. Most codas consist of a single click type, but in a few cases, the first click is different from the rest – for example, a coda made up of "i"-type clicks may begin with a single "a"-type click. These mismatches occur most often when whales switch from one type of coda to another.

This suggests that the first click of a coda is affected by the coda that came before it, showing that codas are not produced in isolation – the previous one can shape how the next begins.

The study also found consistent differences between individual sperm whales. Even within the same coda pattern and click type, some whales produce longer sequences than others. GETTY IMAGES

What it means, what we don't know

The results show that sperm whale vocalisations show clear parallels with human phonology – the system of rules that organises sound patterns in human language through combinations of discrete sound categories, timing, and position. Prof. Beguš, provides a hypothesis of convergent evolution playing out over grand timescales to explain the observations. "Humans and whales diverged tens of millions of years ago, but both evolved complex vocal systems that show striking structural parallels."

Dr. Youngblood added that the rich social and cultural lives of sperm whales relies heavily on communication within their family and clan groups. He believes this might support such a complexity in whale phonology. At the same time, he cautioned that one must not be quick to call it a language just yet. "There are clear similarities, but also important differences," Dr. Youngblood said. "The fundamentally rhythmic nature of sperm whale codas, for example, sets them apart from human speech."

What these patterns mean remains unknown. The study does not identify what information codas convey or whether different patterns correspond to specific contexts. What it does show is that sperm whale communication is built from multiple features that can vary independently and in relation to one another–a level of organisation that is uncommon in animal communication systems. "Determining whether these patterns map onto specific meanings will require much more work," said Dr. Youngblood. "I know these are the goals of Project CETI, and I'm really looking forward to seeing what comes next."

(Anirban Mukhopadhyay is a geneticist by training and science communicator from New Delhi.
anirban.genetics@south.du.ac.in)

A nearly hollow piece of trinitite backlit to reveal how light flows through it. WEIRDMEISTER (CC BY-SA)

New crystal found in the detritus of the first-ever nuclear blast

Vasudevan Mukunth

On July 16, 1945, the U.S.'s 'Trinity' nuclear test in New Mexico changed history. The explosion released energy equivalent to 21,000 tons of TNT, vaporised a steel tower, and melted the surrounding desert sand into a glassy green crust called trinitite. Decades later, this mineral still holds secrets.

In a new study published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, scientists from the University of Firenze, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Carnegie Mellon University, and Princeton University have said they have found a rare, cage-like crystal – called a clathrate – in the trinitite.

The researchers, led by Luca Bindi and Paul Steinhardt, were motivated by the discovery in 2021 of a quasicrystal in red trinitite – a specific variety of the glass tinted by copper from the test tower's wiring. Quasicrystals have ordered but non-repeating atomic patterns that scientists once thought to be impossible in nature. Because both the quasicrystal and the newly discovered clathrate were found in similar copper-rich droplets, the team wanted to know if these two rare forms of matter could be related. In other words, they wanted to check if the extreme conditions in the nuclear blast could have been a natural laboratory that created materials impossible to synthesise using conventional laboratory methods.

To find the new crystal, the team examined a sample of red trinitite collected shortly after the 1945 test. They used high-resolution nano-CT scans to peer inside the glass, where they identified small drops of metal.

They identified one promising candidate, a grain just 10µm across. Then they determined the arrangement of its atoms and its chemical makeup using advanced instruments. The team also used supercomputer simulations to test its stability and its potential relationship to other rare materials. This is how the team discovered a previously unknown calcium-copper-silicon crystal. They said it is a type-I clathrate, which is characterised by a framework of silicon atoms forming small cages that trap other elements inside.

This is the first time a clathrate has been identified among the solid-state products of a nuclear explosion. According to the study paper, the newfound crystal is metastable: meaning could only form under the extreme, fast-changing temperatures and pressures of the Trinity test – conditions reaching over 1,500 °C and pressures up to 8 gigapascals – and then frozen into place by cooling rapidly.

The researchers also checked whether the Trinity quasicrystal could have been derived from the clathrate structure. Their computer models showed that while a clathrate framework would indeed be stable with a small amount of copper, it would fall apart when the copper content reached the high levels found in the Trinity quasicrystal. In other words, the two materials formed in the same event but belong to separate structural families. Per the study, extreme environments can shape matter in ways that challenge scientists' understanding of chemistry and could pave the way for creating new synthetic materials that mimic these high-energy conditions.

The researchers wrote in the paper that their work, by ruling out a connection between clathrates and quasicrystals, also deepens the mystery of where and how complex, non-repeating can structures form in nature.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Conditions and diseases with animals names

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

_____ is the name of the condition that results when parasitic worms block the lymphatic system, causing fluid to accumulate in the limbs over years. The affected leg or arm can swell to enormous proportions while the skin can become quite thick and rough. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

Medieval physicians who saw patients with the raw, ulcerated facial skin caused by X thought the wounds looked as though a wolf had been gnawing at the face. This condition attacks the body's own tissues and in some forms also produces a rash across the nose and cheeks. What is X?

QUESTION 3

In certain bone diseases, including Paget's disease, the bones of the face and skull gradually become thicker and expand outward. The brow becomes heavy, the cheekbones more prominent, and the jaw becomes enlarged. What is this effect — like a coarsened mask physicians once thought bore an unsettling resemblance to a lion's face — called?

QUESTION 4

A stubborn variant of alopecia areata is a condition called Y — an autoimmune condition that causes patchy hair loss. But instead of appearing in random patches, the resulting baldness manifests in a continuous band around the back and sides of the scalp, following a serpentine path. Name the condition.

QUESTION 5

In people with a connective tissue disorder called Marfan syndrome, the fingers and toes tend to be unusually long, slender, and flexible. When the individual splays their fingers or toes, they look remarkably like spider legs. What is this condition called?

Answers to May 7 quiz:

1. Measure of the number of atoms bonded to an atom – **Ans: Ligancy**
2. Force resulting from surface atoms lacking 'lacking' material on one side – **Ans: Surface tension**
3. High value of this attribute leads to Gibbs-Thomson effect – **Ans: Vapour pressure**
4. Collective oscillations of electrons in a metal – **Ans: Plasmons**
5. Formation on surface that allows a material's surface to melt first – **Ans: Liquid film**

Visual: **Pearlescence**

First contact:
K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Prem Nath Tiwari | Anmol Agrawal | Prem Raj P.

Visual: Name this condition, which gets its name from a common aquatic animal. The condition also played an important part in the Sherlock Holmes story The Adventure of the Blanched Soldier. CREDIT: GZZZ (CC BY-SA)

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Bidadi township: 80% landowners agree to part with land, says DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday announced that 80% of landowners, whose lands are notified for the Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT) or Bidadi township, have agreed to part with their land, and the final notification will be issued by June 30.

The government is set to acquire over 6,700 acres for developing India's first and largest Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered integrated township. Mr. Shivakumar held discussions with farmers from the Bidadi region regarding the township project at his government residence office in Kumara Park on Wednesday. He said that the government will start releasing compensation from the first week of June. For the final notification, three villages will be grouped together to form separate batches, and separate final notifications will be issued.

He noted that those who agree to part with their land before June 30 will be issued full compensation.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar during a meeting with farmer representatives from Bidadi at the Government Residential Office in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

For those who are opposing, the money will be deposited in court, and the process will be initiated. He urged farmers to opt for land compensation, even though cash compensation is available, because the returns will be higher.

"When premium FAR is offered, it will be beneficial to landowners. We are spending ₹5 crore for every acre," he said.

Mr. Shivakumar further explained that the government had also undertaken surveys to establish Metro connectivity in the future. "This area has been brought under the BWSSB, so the board will provide water connections. About 40 km of road connectivity will also be established," he added. The government is extending compensation under the Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013. The government will provide livelihood support from the date of the final notification until monetary compensation is paid or developed sites are handed over. The landowners will receive financial assistance ranging between ₹25,000 and ₹50,000 based on the type of land.

Farmers demanded not only compensation, but also residential sites. After hearing all their grievances, Mr. Shivakumar assured them that whatever assistance could be extended legally would be provided.

Mr. Shivakumar later addressed the media. "This region had been declared a red zone, meaning nobody could sell or transact land here. Some people had even approached the court seeking to stop the project, but the court refused to halt it. That is why I am continuing the project after taking farmers into confidence," he said. He stated that the township would be connected to Kanakapura Road, Mysuru-Bengaluru Road, and NICE Road.

Answering a question that H.D. Kumaraswamy had reportedly thrown an open challenge regarding the Bidadi township issue, Mr. Shivakumar said that he was ready to accept it. "Three days are enough for me. Fix the date, time, and venue, and I will be ready," he said. He reiterated that it was Mr. Kumaraswamy who notified the lands earlier for the project and questioned why he had not denotified them later.

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Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Heroin seized near the Jammu border in a drone drop

3 In kilograms. Police in Jammu recovered around 3 kg of heroin suspected to have been dropped by a drone near the International Border in the Bishnah sector. Officials said the consignment, estimated to be worth over ₹15 crore in the international market, was intercepted during an operation targeting narco-smuggling networks. PTI

Tamil Nadu healthcare surveillance vehicles flagged off

40 Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay flagged off 40 new vehicles worth ₹2.9 crore for the Directorate of Medical and Rural Health Services. The vehicles will be used to monitor hospitals, inspect scan centres, investigate quackery cases and support emergency medical relief operations across the State. PTI

Ships allowed through the Strait of Hormuz by Iran

26 Iran's Revolutionary Guards said 26 vessels, including oil tankers and container ships, were allowed to transit the Strait of Hormuz over the past 24 hours. Iran has largely blocked shipping through the strait, a vital global energy conduit, since the outbreak of war with the United States and Israel on February 28. AFP

Temperature recorded in Rajasthan's hottest city

46.5 In degrees Celsius. Sriganganagar recorded a maximum temperature of 46.5° Celsius, making it the hottest place in Rajasthan. Most parts of the State are likely to continue experiencing heatwave conditions with temperatures ranging between 42 and 46 degrees Celsius over the next week. PTI

Matches scheduled in BCCI domestic season 2026-27

1,788 The BCCI announced that the 2026-27 domestic season will feature 1,788 matches across men's and women's tournaments in multiple age groups and formats. The season will begin with the Duleep Trophy on August 23. ANI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Oral remarks and institutional limits

Chief Justice's 'cockroaches' remark from the bench, and the clarification that followed, have revived a question the Supreme Court has tried to settle twice; the standard the court has set out asks the public to read bench remarks as distinct from the formal opinion, and asks judges to keep that distinction from collapsing

LETTER & SPIRIT

V. Venkatesan

Chief Justice Surya Kant's remarks from the bench on May 15 and the clarification that followed the next day have revived a question Indian law has tried to settle twice. When a judge speaks from the bench and the speech wounds, what standard governs? Hearing applications relating to the designation of senior advocates, the Chief Justice remarked that "there are youngsters like cockroaches" and that some advocates were "parasites of society." The clarification confined the criticism to fake-degree-holding designees. The clarification has not closed the controversy.

The court has named the convention twice. The first was the Restatement of Values of Judicial Life, adopted by the Full Court on May 7, 1997. The second was *Chief Election Commissioner vs M.R. Vijayabhaskar*, decided by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice M.R. Shah on May 6, 2021. A century before either, Benjamin Cardozo, in his Storrs Lectures at Yale in 1921, named the standard that constrains all judicial utterance. The judge, Cardozo wrote, "is to draw his inspiration from consecrated principles. He is not to yield to spasmodic sentiment, to vague and unregulated benevolence. He is to exercise a discretion informed by tradition, methodized by analogy, disciplined by system, and subordinated to the primordial necessity of order in the social life."

GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

- Bench questions are meant to test arguments and aid judicial reasoning, but "intemperate remarks" and "scathing language" that wound individuals or institutions cross a recognised judicial standard.
- Drawing on Cardozo, the 1997 Restatement of Values of Judicial Life, and Vijayabhaskar, the article distinguishes between the "bench question that tests" and the "language that wounds."
- As oral observations now travel instantly into the public sphere, clarifications that narrow or deny controversial remarks leave "the wound on the record and the standard unanswered."

The Vijayabhaskar standard

The trigger for *Vijayabhaskar* lay in the Madras High Court. In April 2021, during the second wave of COVID-19, the Madras High Court was hearing a petition on COVID protocols at a Karur polling booth, with Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee presiding. The Bench, exasperated at the Election Commission for permitting large political rallies during the Assembly elections then under way, remarked that the Commission was "singularly responsible" for the situation and that Commission officers "should be put up for murder charges probably." The remarks were not in the formal order but were widely reported. The Election Commission moved the Supreme Court for a direction restraining the media from reporting oral observations of judges.

Justice Chandrachud refused that restraint. The judgment did three things. It defended bench questioning as a form that provides "clarity to the judges" and lets lawyers develop arguments "with a sense of creativity founded on a spontaneity of thought." It cautioned against scathing language directed at persons or institutions, calling the Madras High Court's metaphor "inappropriate" and the remarks "harsh." And it held, as the doctrinal centrepiece, that "the formal opinion of a judicial institution is reflected through its judgments and orders, not its oral observations during the hearing." Two faces of the bench remark were thus named by the court itself: the question that tests and the language that wounds. The same standard, drawn from Cardozo and codified in Item 8 of the 1997 Restatement, applies to both.

The bench question that tests

The first face is the bench question that tests an argument. The judge states a position she may not hold, to see how the lawyer defends against it. The form is unscripted; the function is rigorous. The judgment is the considered position; the bench question is the testing that precedes it. Three instances show the form at work. During the second round of hearings in *Brown vs Board of Education* before the United States Supreme Court, Justice Felix Frankfurter asked Thurgood Marshall what he meant by saying the Constitution required "equal" treatment in schools. Marshall answered: "Equal means getting the same thing, at the same time, and in the same place." The bench question forced the petitioner to define his term in a phrase that would travel. The answer entered the American civil rights doctrine.

On September 12, 2023, the Israeli Supreme Court sat as a 15-justice panel to hear petitions against an amendment that stripped the courts of their power to review government decisions for reasonableness. President Esther Hayut told government counsel from the bench: "We are not concerned with our prestige but with the vital interests of the public." She pressed the government on whether reasonableness could survive as a legal obligation if no judge could enforce it. The questioning was widely read as foreshadowing the 8:7 majority that struck down the law in January 2024.

In April 2023, hearing the marriage equality petitions in *Supriyo vs Union of India*, Chief Justice Chandrachud told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that "there is no absolute concept of a man or an absolute concept of a woman at all... the very notion of a man and a woman is not an absolute based on genitals." The exchange was widely read as signalling that the bench would read same-sex unions into the Special Marriage Act, 1954. The judgment delivered six months later went the other way. Chief Justice Chandrachud himself was in the minority. The bench question had done its work of testing. The considered position lay elsewhere.

The intemperate remark

The second face is the intemperate remark. The standard against "scathing language" is most strained when the language reaches for the dehumanising.

In December 2015, hearing *Fisher vs University of Texas* at Austin on race in university admissions, Justice Antonin Scalia observed from the bench that there were those who contended that African-American students did better at "a slower-track school" than at competitive universities. The remark went to the empirical question of whether affirmative action helped its intended beneficiaries. The language he used to put the question carried its own weight. The remark was widely condemned as racist. Justice Scalia did not retreat. He died two months later, leaving the remark on the record.

On March 1, 2021, hearing the bail plea of a government employee accused of raping a school student in Maharashtra, Chief Justice S.A. Bobde asked his counsel: "Will you marry her?" The accused's lawyer informed the court that his client was already married. The Chief Justice withdrew the suggestion. A week later, he said the remark had been "completely misreported": he had asked whether the accused was going to marry, not directed him to do so.

Hearing a PIL on urban housing for the poor in February 2025, Justice B.R. Gavai, who would assume office as Chief Justice three months later, wondered aloud whether freebies were producing "a class of parasites." That he was urging the homeless to be drawn into the mainstream did not redeem the epithet. Justice Surya Kant's remarks of May 15 belong to the same category and have followed the same arc: utterance, criticism, clarification confining the scope of what was said.

The same standard applies off the bench. In July 2016, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the United States Supreme Court called Donald Trump, then the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, "a faker" in media interviews, and said she did not want to think about his winning the White House. After Mr. Trump called for her resignation, she issued a statement: "On reflection, my recent remarks in response to press inquiries were ill-advised and I regret making them. Judges should avoid commenting on a candidate for public office. In the future I will be more circumspect." Item 8 of the 1997 Restatement, which directs an Indian judge not to "enter into a public debate or express his views in public on political matters or on matters that are pending or are likely to arise for judicial determination," would have reached the same conclusion in fewer words.

A pattern runs through the intemperate remarks. Each was followed, where it was followed at all, by a retreat that did not match what had been said. Scalia did not retreat. Justice Bobde said the remark had been misreported. Chief Justice Surya Kant said the criticism had been narrower than reported. Only Ginsburg, in withdrawing, acknowledged the standard she had crossed. The retreat that names the rule is the rarer kind. The retreat that denies the speech is the more common one.

The standard *Vijayabhaskar* identified has not changed. What has changed is the audience. Bench remarks now travel from the courtroom to the news cycle in real time, before the formal opinion of the court is written. The discipline Cardozo named, and Item 8 codified, now operates in public. The clarification that denies the speech leaves the wound on the record and the standard unanswered. A clarification that named the rule is what *Vijayabhaskar* asks of the bench. The first occasion to apply it has come and gone. A second is now in play.

(V. Venkatesan is a journalist and legal researcher.)

Stray dog euthanasia: Civic bodies to have separate committees

Euthanasia was possible under the ABC Rules; if a stray dog was incurably injured or mortally ill, euthanasia could be done

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

With the Supreme Court permitting municipal authorities to adopt legally permissible measures, including euthanasia in cases involving "rabid, incurably ill or demonstrably dangerous or aggressive dogs," Bengaluru's corporations are in a bind as to how to interpret it.

In its order, the Supreme Court clearly underscored that the authorities concerned must undertake euthanasia only after due assessment by qualified veterinary experts and strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, and other applicable statutory protocols.

For this purpose, all the corporations will now also have committees of their own to assess the requirement for euthanasia and make a decision on it.

Earlier, euthanasia was possible under the Animal Birth Control Rules (ABC) Rules, which had clear guidelines stating that if a stray dog was incurably injured or mortally ill, euthanasia could be carried out.

The erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) also had a three-member stray dog euthanasia committee, which reviewed such recommendations and decided whether euthanasia should be allowed. The committee consisted of a jurisdictional veterinary officer (BBMP veterinarian), the project-in-charge officer for the animal birth control and anti-rabies vaccination programme, and a representative from the Karnataka Animal Welfare Board.

Even if a feral dog is considered an aggressive canine, there are no guidelines on the level of aggression at which the committee can declare that the dog should be euthanised, say GBA sources. FILE PHOTO

The erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike also had a three-member stray dog euthanasia committee

"The committee would seek reports on a dog's health, conduct a physical verification, and assess its condition, which would clearly establish whether the dog could be euthanised," a GBA source explained.

Now, even if a feral dog is considered an aggressive canine, there are no guidelines on the level of aggression at which the committee can declare that the dog should be euthanised, according to GBA sources.

Misuse of the provision

Arun Prasad, an animal rights activist, pointed out that this grey area could allow civic body officials to exploit the law and could lead to the unnecessary killing of stray dogs.

"We already have many cases of mishandling of stray dog cases, and this provision will only lead to similar incidents," he cautioned.

However, a GBA official explained that the decision would still rest with the committees, which would ensure transparency.

'Review petition will be filed'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Nevina Kamath, co-petitioner in SLP(C) 691 of 2009, told *The Hindu* that they are planning to file a review petition or contempt petition, arguing that the previous order was violated through the recent order.

"The previous order in SLP(C) 691 was fair, upheld all constitutional safeguards, and was a detailed one. The new order contradicts it and meddles with the earlier order," she said.

She explained that some canines with neurological conditions can sometimes display erratic behaviour that mimics the symptoms of rabies.

With the new order, such cases could be misinterpreted as aggressive behaviour or rabies.

City corporations ramp up dog shelter infrastructure works

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the Supreme Court passing the final order on relocating stray dogs from institutions and public spaces such as bus shelters, the Bengaluru corporations are pushing to expedite infrastructure works to begin the relocation process.

A survey undertaken by the city corporations revealed that around 2,696 dogs need to be relocated. A few corporations are also planning one more survey to finalise total count.

According to documents reviewed by *The Hindu*, the South and North City Corporations have made substantial progress in infrastructure works, while the others are lagging behind even in construction activities.

The South Corporation has already constructed a shelter home with a capacity to house 100 dogs in S. Bingipura. The corporation has also selected an NGO to oversee the care of stray dogs in the shelter home.

In the North Corporation, a shelter home with a capacity of 500 dogs is coming up in Medi Agrahara. Civil works are in the final stage, and the shelter home will be ready by May 30, according to the document.

The West and East Corporations have identified land in Sumanahalli and Basavanapura, respectively, and ground-level work is in the initial stage. The corporations plan to set up shelter homes with a capacity of 500 dogs each. While the West Corporation is eyeing completion within three months, the East Corporation is optimistic about completing the work within two months. The central corporation is also setting up a shelter home with a capacity of 500 dogs in Bingipura, where foundation work is currently underway.

A survey revealed that about 2,696 dogs in the city need to be relocated. FILE PHOTO

Phase-wise process

According to a source in the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), the relocation will take place in phases, and the care of the dogs will be outsourced to NGOs. The corporations will allocate ₹3,000 per dog per month, including feeding costs. The nodal officers, most of whom are veterinarians in the corporations, will oversee the operations.

BWSSB among world's top 5 water utilities

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BWSSB has been recognised as one of the top five water utilities at the Global Water Summit 2026 being held in Madrid, Spain.

BWSSB's Cauvery Stage-V Drinking Water Project, implemented to address the city's rising water demand, placed among the Top 5 global projects in the 'Water Project of the Year' category, BWSSB said in a statement.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, MAY. 21			
RISE	05:53	SET	18:39
RISE	10:19	SET	23:29
FRIDAY, MAY. 22			
RISE	05:53	SET	18:40
RISE	11:19	SET	00:00
SATURDAY, MAY. 23			
RISE	05:53	SET	18:40
RISE	12:14	SET	00:15

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	34	22
Bengaluru	34	21

Bengaluru Today
32°C The weather will be little warm. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower to occur. Night will be comfortable.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light to moderate rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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TAMLNADU POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the Work
C-01	CE/USTPP	Construction of R S T U Types of Quarters for the Staff Officers of USTPP

For details of works/Procurement/Due date of submission/Opening,viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites, **www.tnpdcl.org, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in**
DIPR/1932/TENDER/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public that my client has intended to purchase / Joint Venture of the Agricultural property mentioned in the schedule hereunder from its lawful owners bearing **Survey Numbers mentioned in schedule of lands situated at Thindlu Village, Kundana Hobli, Devenahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.**, All are Residing at Thindlu Village, Kundana Hobli, Devenahalli, Bangalore Rural District.who claims to be the Joint absolute owners of their respective portion which are particularly mentioned in the schedule hereunder. Any person having objection for sale & for Joint Venture of the said Schedule Property or any claim or interest in whatsoever manner in the Property may lodge the same with Documentary Proof with the undersigned within **10 DAYS** from the date of Publication of this Notice. Any objection received thereafter will not be entertained and my client will proceed to Purchase the Property in accordance with law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

THINDLU (Village), Kundana (Hobli), Devanahalli (Taluk), Bangalore Rural District:

Survey No	Acre	Guntas	Name of land owners
153/1 -	1	32	Munibayamma W/o late Narayanswamy
153/1 -	1	19	Gowarammma W/o Munisubhaiaha
153/1 -	2	37	Jayarnma W/o. Basvaraj
18 -	1	00	Ashok
18 -	1	00	Srinivas
18 -	0	17	Jayamma
18 -	0	17	Kempamma
Total	**9**	**02**	

S. UDAYA KUMARR. B.A., LL.B., Advocate (Roll No.275/89)
#263, Sri MNS Arcade, 3rd Floor, 1st 'N' Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010, **M: 9845726723.**
Place: Bangalore Date: 20-05-2026

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
KPCL invites tenders through KPP portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works:

BRIEF / E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through KPPP Portal only)

1) Tender No. KPCL/2026-27/PS/WORK_INDENT4165 Dated: 14.05.2026 RTPS-Supply, erection, commissioning and testing of 04 no's of 3 Tonne Electrical Operated Hoists at 20m elevation in each Boiler of Unit # 5 to 8. **EMD: Rs.58,540/-.** Last date for submission of tender: **30.05.2026, 16.00 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from **Executive Engineer (Boiler Maintenance-2),** Mobile: 94495 96542.

2) KPCL/2026-27/PS/WORK_INDENT4129/CALL-2 Dated: 18.05.2026 for AMC of AC & Ventilation system of RTPS Green Building for a period of one year - excluding water cooled chiller & VRF air conditioners units. **EMD: Rs.40,800/-**. Last date for submission of bids (Both Cover 1 & 2): **25.05.2026 up to 16.30 Hrs**. Further details can be obtained from **Executive Engineer (LT-2),** Mobile: 94495 96531. E-mail: eelt2rtps@gmail.com

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION

Procurement of 3) Tender No. KPCL/2026-27/IND2627 Welding transformer & welding generator set. **EMD: Rs.12,600/-. 4) KPCL/2025-26/IND2499/CALL-2** Hydraulic Jack. **EMD: Rs.5,200/-. 5) KPCL/2025-26/IND2462/CALL-2** Wire rope slings for RTPS. **EMD: Rs.2,400/-. 6) KPCL/2025-26/IND2455/CALL-2** Guide rollers, return roller and carrying idler for RTPS. **EMD: Rs15,100/-. 7) KPCL/2025-26/IND1814/CALL-3** Dewatering pump 5HP. **EMD: Rs.3,300/-. 8) KPCL/2025-26/IND2465/CALL-3** Weak base Anion resin. **EMD: Rs.35,800/-**. Last date for receipt of tenders: 3 to 7: **29.05.2026, 16.00 Hrs.** For Sl. No. 8: **27.05.2026, 16.00 Hrs**. All relevant details of the bids are available in the above mentioned e-portal. Further details can be obtained from the **Executive Engineer (Purchase),** RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar - 584 170, Raichur District. Mobile: 94495 97966. E-mail: eeprtps@gmail.com

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Special division, 19th main road, 2nd block, Rajajinagara, Bangalore-560010. E Mail: specialdivisionbwcc@gmail.com
No: EE(SED)/TEND/04/2026-27 Date: 19.05.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Two cover system) (Through GOK KPPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer Special division (BWCC), invites tender on behalf of the Commissioner, BWCC, invites bids through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from eligible licensed /registered advertisers with BWCC / any other Bengaluru City Corporation for assignment of commercial advertisement rights in 2-Zones in accordance with the Greater Bengaluru Area (Advertisement) Rules 2025.: Other details can be seen in the RFP document
Name of the Work : 1) Assignment of Commercial Advertisement Rights in Zone-1 of Bengaluru West City Corporation
2) Assignment of Commercial Advertisement Rights in Zone-2 of Bengaluru West City Corporation

The tender schedule is as mentioned below:

1.	Tender Notification No.. : **EE(SED)/TEND/04/2026-27, Date: 19.05.2026**
2.	Date from which Bid document is ready for download through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) : 21.05.2026 from 17:30 Hrs**
3.	Date of Pre-bid Meeting and venue :**26.05.2026 at 15.00 Hrs** Office of the Executive Engineer, Special division, 19th main road, 2nd block, Rajajinagara, Bangalore-560010 E Mail: specialdivisionbwcc@gmail.com
4.	Last date for seeking clarification if any : **26.05.2026 at 15.00 Hrs**
5.	Last date and time for uploading of tender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal platform : **05.06.2026 up to 17.00 Hrs**
6.	Date and time of opening of tenders: Technical Bid & Technical Evaluation : **06.06.2026 at 15.00 Hrs**
7.	Date and time of opening of tenders: Commercial Bid of technically qualified bidders : **08-06-2026 at 15.00 Hrs Immediately after technical evaluation (If Possible)**
8.	Contact Person for queries : Executive Engineer (Special Division), Mobile: 9448539073 E Mail: specialdivisionbwcc@gmail.com
9.	Place of Opening of Tenders and Address for communication : Office of the Executive Engineer, Special division, 19th main road, 2nd block, Rajajinagara, Bengaluru -560010
10.	**EMD Amount :** Rs. 20 Lakhs (out of which Rs 16 Lakh as Bank Guarantee and rest Rs. 4 Lakhs paid in KPP Portal) for each Zone wise bid

Note: Completed tender shall be uploaded through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal system only in the manner described in this Tender on or before the last date & time stipulated.
Table 1: Other important information related to the tender.
1) Bid Validity Period : 90 days from the last date of submission of proposals. **2)** Payment of 5-months of bid value : As per Greater Bengaluru Area (Advertisement) Rules 2025. **3)** Deadline / last date for signing contract : Within 15 working days of notice of award. **4)** Term or time period for which the Commercial Advertisement Rights will be assigned and the agreement will be entered into with the bid winner of each Zone : 10-Years from the date of Agreement.
Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be notified in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Special Division
Bengaluru West City Corporation

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD
Notice Inviting e-Tender

Name of Office	NIT No. / Name of work	Starting Date (Time)/ Closing Date (Time)	Tender Fee/ Estimate Cost/ Earnest Money
Executive Engineer, RM Division, BBMB, Talwara Township	NIT No. PongDesilt/2026-27/01 De-silting of Dehar Khad in district Kangra (Himachal Pradesh) of Pong Dam Reservoir area	20/05/26 (10:00 AM) 23/06/26 (Upto 12:00 PM)	Rs 5,000/- Rs 160.00 Cr Rs 32,00,000/-
Executive Engineer, BR SC & Plant Design Division, BBMB Sundernagar. Distt. Mandi (H.P) 175019	9/BR/2026-27 "De-Silting of Balancing Reservoir Sundernagar Sub Work- De-Silting of Balancing Reservoir Sundernagar in Zone-3".	19/05/26 (17:00 PM) 09/06/26 (12:30 PM)	Rs 478.00 Lac. Rs 955200/-

For detailed NIT/terms & conditions etc. please visit/downloaded from BBMB website **www.bbmb.gov.in, www.etenders.gov.in**
NOTE: if any, Corrigendum, shall be uploaded on website only.
263/PR/Bd Sectt./5 FOR YOUR BETTER TOMORROW SAVE ENERGY TODAY

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE, BILAGI.
No:Apmc (B)/ Dev/35/2026-27 Date:-18-05-2026
-:: TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH KPP PORTAL) ::-

Sl No	Name of Work	Amount put to tender (in Rupees)	E.M.D. Amount (in Rupees
1	PROVIDING INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES AT MAIN MARKET YARD OF APMC BILAGI UNDER RIDF-31 SCHEME-2025-26 Work Indent No:APMC/2025-26 /OW/ WORK_INDENT870	4,10,96,779=00 (GST ಹೊರತು ಪಡಿಸಿ)	6,17,000=00

TENDER HAS BEEN CALLED THROUGH KPP PORTAL TO EXECUTE THE ABOVE WORK. PRE-BID MEETING AND TENDER DISPUTE RESOLUTION DATE:16-06-2026 AT 11.30 AM LAST DATE & TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDER IS 22-06-2026 UP TO 5.30 PM, FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT DURING OFFICE HOURS AND VISIT THE WEBSITE https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/-SECRETARY **Sd/-ADMINISTRATOR**
APMC BILAGI DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-55/KSMCA/2026-27 **APMC BILAGI**

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka
4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560041
registrar@rguhs.ac.in Tel : +91-80-29601928
Date: 19/05/2026

E- TENDER NOTIFICATION (RFP)

The Registrar Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences invites Tender For Nationalized Banks For Competitive Rate of Interest For Placing Surplus Funds only In Nationalized Bank In Fd Rs.400 Cr. More Details on the Service are provided In the attached terms of reference.

Auction Notice No. RGUHSK/2026-27/AUCTION17

1	Auction document available for download	19-05-2026, 16:19 Hrs.
2	Last date to submit the query	30-05-2026, 13:00 Hrs.
3	Date and time to confirm participation of interest in Auction	01-06-2026, 13:30 Hrs.
4	Start date and time of Evaluation	03-06-2026, 11:30 Hrs.
5	Live bid	05.06.2026, 15.10 pm to 15.40 Hrs.

More details can be fetched from website
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/-
Finance Officer
DIPR/CP/757/AKAR/2026-27

KOPPAL UNIVERSITY, KOPPAL
Government Engineering College Campus,
Talkal-583231, Koppal District, Karnataka
E: re.koppaluniversity@gmail.com W: www.koppaluniversity.ac.in
M: +91 94486 87862
KUK/Exam Section/Notification/ 2026-27/24 Date:20.05.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Koppal University (herein after referred to as Koppal University or University) invites Proposals for the Security Printers to supply of Marks Card Printing Materials and Marks Card Template of **Two year on a rate contract basis** from the eligible and reputed vendors/companies as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act. The Tenderer who have registered under e-governance Department of Karnataka may participate through e-tendering system. Tender documents may be downloaded from the E-procurement Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. The eligible Tenderer shall submit their e-Tender in under e-procurement platform as scheduled in e-portal. For any more information contact Registrar (Evaluation) Examination Section, **9986213615.**

SL. NO	Details Of Work	Estimate Cost	EMD
1	**Printing and Supply of Secured Marks Card Templates**	**84,00,000/-**	**1,68,000/-**
2	**Supply and Installation High Speed of Servers, Marks Card Printers**	**28,50,000/-**	**57,000/-**

Sd/-Registrar (Evaluation)
Koppal University, Koppal
DIPR/Koppal/93/DeshpandePublicity/2026-27

ಮೈಸೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಜೆ.ಎಲ್.ಬಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು 0 570005,
ದೂರವಾಣಿ/ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 0821–2420624
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈಅಪ್ರಾ/ಕಾ.ಇಂ/ಪಿಬಿ/ಟಿಎನ್/2/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:14.05.2026

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ರೂ. 17.50 ಲಕ್ಷದಿಂದ 200.00 ಲಕ್ಷದ ಒಟ್ಟು 06 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 01 ರಿಂದ 04 ರವರೆಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ದಿ: 18.05.2026 ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ದಿ: 25.05.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಮಯವನ್ನು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದು, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿ: 27.05.2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ರ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 05 ರಿಂದ 06 ರವರೆಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ದಿ: 18.05.2026 ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ದಿ: 03.06.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಮಯವನ್ನು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದು, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿ: 05.06.2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ರ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಅರ್ಹ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಯಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 0821–2420624 (948088 4440) ರಿಂದ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.mudamysore.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ: ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಬದಲಾಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಇರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸುವುದು. ಮತ್ತೆ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಅಭಿಯಂತರ ಸದಸ್ಯರು, ಮೈಸೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
DIPR/DDMYS/201KSMCA/150/2026-27

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CACHE

How States are managing the surging summer power demand

India's electricity demand has surged sharply, with peak demand touching an all-time high of 256.1 GW in April, making it harder for States to manage supply during high-demand hours and exposing them to costly short-term market purchases and stressed distribution networks

Rishu Garg

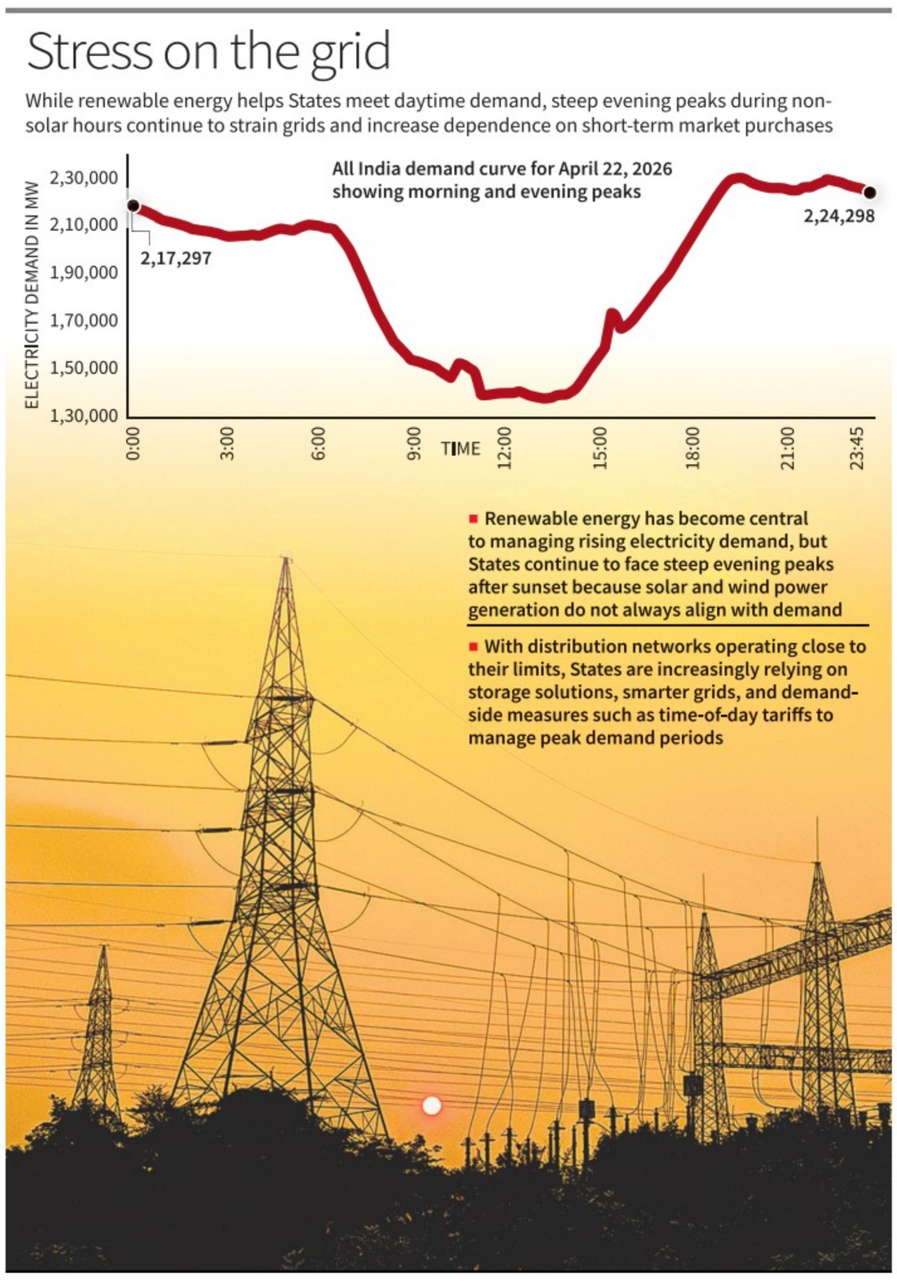
India's electricity demand has surged earlier than expected this year, with peak demand touching an all-time high of 256.1 gigawatts (GW) on April 25. (The country followed up with higher records on May 19 and May 20). Nearly one-third of this peak demand was met through renewable energy (RE) sources. While the national grid held up without any shortage during solar hours, the non-solar hours saw a deficit of 2% (4,243 megawatts) on the same day.

What is peak demand?
Peak demand refers to the highest point of electrical power consumed on a grid over a specific period, typically a 15-minute interval. While peak demand is a single instant, it occurs during 2 to 4 hours of higher-than-average demand or 'peak demand period'. Summer months may cause longer peaks from late afternoon to evening hours and then during the night due to cooling loads (from air conditioners and coolers). Similarly, winter peaks can last longer in the morning (between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m.) and evening (between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.) due to increased heating and lighting loads during these hours, particularly in the northern States.

Paying heed to the duration of these peaks is important because even though they occur only for a short period, the grid needs to meet the peak load instantly. In fact, the entire power sector infrastructure (generation, transmission, and distribution capacity) needs to be planned to deal with this peak. But this is easier said than done. Building a system to serve the periods of highest load that last only for a few hours is neither resource-efficient nor economical. If enough capacity is built to meet the peak demand, it will remain underutilised during off-peak hours. On the other hand, if enough capacity is not available to meet the peak demand, then the system will face issues like load shedding and grid instability.

How do States manage demand?
States meet demand through two mechanisms: contractual supply and power exchange purchases. Contractual supply comprises the long-term power purchase agreements (PPAs) that State distribution companies (DISCOMs) sign with power generators to ensure power supply over several years. This helps the DISCOMs in meeting the average demand for their consumers. Almost 85%-90% of the demand in India is being met through contractual supply or bilateral contracts between the DISCOMs and generators. In the event of real-time mismatches or when the contractual supply falls short due to sudden spikes in demand or power plant or transmission failures, DISCOMs turn to the second mechanism – buying power from power exchanges. At present, around 10%-15% of the electricity is traded on the power exchanges.

For managing peaks, States often undertake demand-side measures. Most States have relied on advisories urging consumers to reduce usage during peak hours, typically between 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. Delhi has increasingly utilised measures such as time-of-day tariffs (electricity charges that vary based on the time of day) and smart metering to flatten evening peaks that are driven by cooling demand.


Stress on the grid
While renewable energy helps States meet daytime demand, steep evening peaks during non-solar hours continue to strain grids and increase dependence on short-term market purchases
All India demand curve for April 22, 2026 showing morning and evening peaks
ELECTRICITY DEMAND IN MW
2,30,000
2,10,000
1,90,000
1,70,000
1,50,000
1,30,000
2,17,297
2,24,298
0:00
3:00
6:00
9:00
TIME
12:00
15:00
18:00
21:00
23:45
Renewable energy has become central to managing rising electricity demand, but States continue to face steep evening peaks after sunset because solar and wind power generation do not always align with demand
With distribution networks operating close to their limits, States are increasingly relying on storage solutions, smarter grids, and demand-side measures such as time-of-day tariffs to manage peak demand periods

What are some challenges faced by States due to rising demand?
A steady growth in household electrification, use of air conditioners, electric vehicle penetration, and agricultural power consumption has been driving the increase in India's electricity demand. In the last 5 years, the country's peak demand has risen by 37% – from 183 GW in December 2020 to over 250 GW in April 2026. This surge has made it tougher for States to fulfil the electricity requirements.

With DISCOMs committed to long-term agreements that are signed at a fixed capacity and price, any shortfall has to be met through power exchanges, which are short-term markets. This exposes the States to price volatility because prices in these markets increase during peak periods. Indian Energy Exchange data shows that electricity prices in the day-ahead market have seen sharp spikes during peak periods, with rates touching the regulatory ceiling of ₹ 10 per kilowatt-hour on several occasions during April and May this year.

Another challenge relates to the inadequacy of the distribution network. Infrastructure expansion and upgrades in India's power distribution segment often lag demand growth, leading to issues with last-mile delivery of power to the end-consumer. Over the last decade, India's generation capacity has increased by 76% (from 303 GW to 532 GW), its transmission lines have expanded by 47% (from 3,41,551 circuit kilometres [ckm] to 5,01,766 ckm), and the transformation capacity has increased by 115% (from 6,58,949 megavolt-amperes [MVA] to 1,41,63,76 MVA). However, a corresponding expansion in the distribution infrastructure has not happened, and distribution networks continue to face major stress. Recent assessments by the Central Electricity Authority indicate that nearly 13 lakh distribution transformers (DTs) fail annually in India. Some States have low DT failure rates of less than 2%, such as Kerala, while some (particularly the northern States) experience DT failure rates as high as 20%. Further, overloading of transformers and feeders, ageing equipment, and inadequate maintenance continue to compromise last-mile power delivery. Many States experience local outages, especially during peak demand periods, highlighting that their distribution networks are operating close to their limits and need upgradation.

The challenge posed by demand surges becomes acute for financially stressed States because they are neither able to procure costly short-term power nor invest in distribution network upgrades. States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar continue to grapple with high losses, ageing distribution infrastructure, and overloaded transformers.

How does RE help?
RE has become central to the management of rising electricity demand, particularly during summer peak periods. Since solar and wind power plants have low operating costs, higher RE penetration can also reduce overall power purchase costs for DISCOMs.

States with high RE capacity, such as Gujarat and Karnataka, are able to meet daytime peak comfortably as the solar power generation aligns reasonably well with daytime commercial and agricultural demand. But these States face steep evening peaks after sunset, for which they need to increasingly depend on energy storage technologies such as pumped hydro storage (PHS) and battery energy storage systems (BESS). Similarly, Tamil Nadu, with a high wind capacity, benefits significantly from wind generation during the monsoon months, reducing dependence on thermal power. But the State has to resort to market purchases during periods of low wind output to meet the high evening urban demand.

However, Punjab, which has a meagre RE capacity and a dominant agricultural load during the paddy-sowing season that coincides with the summer peak, has to rely heavily on hydro imports and short-term market purchases.

What needs to be done?
Despite its growing contribution, RE cannot help in ensuring a reliable round-the-clock power supply because of its variable nature. Also, electricity demand and RE power generation do not always align. Solar power generation falls sharply after sunset, though electricity demand often remains high during evening hours. Similarly, wind generation is seasonal and highly dependent on monsoon conditions. Because of this, States now face the challenge of managing variability and steep evening demand.

This is where energy storage technologies like BESS and PHS that enhance flexibility become critical for India's power system, as they help to balance the grid when the output (power) generated by RE changes suddenly. PHS is already emerging as a key solution in States like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. At the same time, the grid itself needs to become smarter and more flexible through stronger transmission networks, upgraded distribution systems, and energy efficiency initiatives.

With Indian States witnessing more peak demand periods, the challenge is shifting from simply generating more electricity to building a system capable of managing power efficiently across regions and time periods. This calls for substantial investments in storage solutions, along with adopting more demand-side measures like ToD tariffs and agricultural load scheduling.

(Rishu Garg is a senior policy specialist in the Energy Policy and Regulations group at the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), a research-based think tank)

THE DAILY QUIZ

Here is a quiz on how Ebola infects, spreads, and survives

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Vasudevan Mukunth

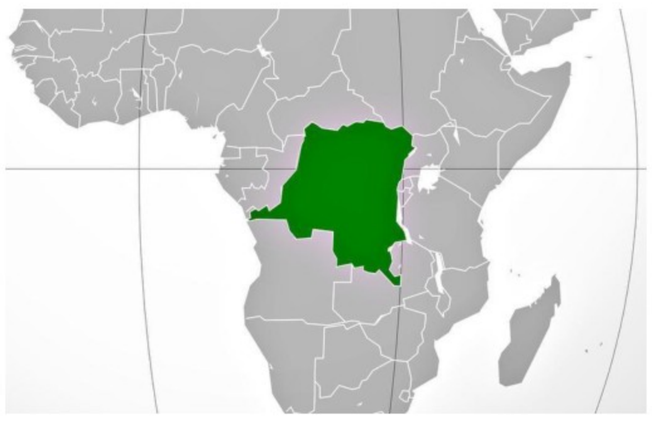
QUESTION 1
Filoviruses come in five (known) genera. The two most famous are Ebola and _____. Their natural reservoir is almost certainly fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family of fruit bats, which are able to carry the virus without getting sick. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2
The Ebola virus does not directly destroy tissue. Instead, it infects macrophages and dendritic cells early. This prompts the immune system to release a deluge of proteins called _____, which encourage inflammation and damage the vascular endothelium. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 3
The Ebola virus has a protein called VP35 that mimics X, which is a kind of RNA that the immune system's sensors have learnt to recognise as a sign of infection. However, VP35 binds to them in such a way that they're occupied but not activated, and they can't 'trigger' the immune system's defence. What is X?

QUESTION 4
The Ebola virus can persist in immune-privileged sites in the body long after it has been cleared from the blood. These include the eyes' _____ _____ and the central nervous system. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 5
The Ebola virus first latches onto proteins on the cell surface. Then the cell swallows it whole, enclosing it in a bubble called a Y. Inside the Y, the cell's digestive enzymes accidentally help the virus by trimming part of its outer coat, revealing a hook that grabs on to a protein called NPC1. Then the virus fuses with the Y wall and gets into the cell proper. Name Y.



Visual Question:
Name this country. The disease is called Ebola virus disease, the virus is called Ebola virus, and the species label is "Q ebolavirus", where Q is the former name of this country.

Questions and Answers of the previous day's daily quiz: 1. On this day in 1873, which clothing company's founders were granted a patent for trousers reinforced with rivets? **Ans: Levi Strauss**
2. Which American actor born on this day is known for his roles in films _You Can't Take It with You_, _The Philadelphia Story_, among others? **Ans: James Stewart**
3. This Asian country became independent on this day in 2002. On May 20, 2002, this became the first new sovereign state of the 21st century. **Ans: Timor-Leste**
4. This English philosopher and political economist conceived of liberty as justifying the freedom of the individual in opposition to unlimited state and social control. Who was he? **Ans: John Stuart Mill**
5. This French novelist and playwright was born on this day in 1799. Who was he? **Ans: Honoré de Balzac**
Visual: Identify this singer. **Ans: Cher**
Early Birds: Soumendra Banerjee | Alok Kumar Giri | Sayandeep Das | Abhay Krishan | Yashica

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the meaning and origin of the idiom "to bring home the bacon"? (S. Madhusudan, Tiruchy) (T.N.)
Bacon is the salted or smoked meat that comes from the back or sides of a pig. Bacon and eggs is a popular American breakfast. When someone "brings home the bacon", he or she is providing food for the family. What do you need in order to buy food? Money, of course! When you say that someone "brings home the bacon", it means that he or she has a job and is earning a salary. He or she is the breadwinner.

"Bhaskar is married, but it's his wife who brings home the bacon."

In the old days, weekly and monthly fairs were very common in villages. On these occasions, farmers used to bring vegetables, meat, cattle, sheep, etc. and sell them at the market place. As a form of entertainment, a well-greased pig was let loose in the market. Any man or woman catching the pig could claim it as his/her prize. Since the animal had grease all over it, it was very slippery and hence very difficult to catch. But the person catching it could take it home. The man or woman catching the pig was literally bringing home the bacon! Nowadays, of course, you don't bring pigs home, instead you provide food for the family by bringing home a salary. But things haven't changed all that much. These days in order to "bring home the bacon", you often have to grease someone's palm!

Why do we call the spare tire that we carry in our car a "stepney"? (N. Chandramouli, Hosur, Karnataka)
Although this word is quite common in India, hardly anyone uses it in Britain. The Americans, of course, have never used it. The word is not included in most dictionaries! What we call a "stepney", native speakers of English refer to as a "spare". In America, the spare wheel is much smaller than the normal wheel.

Where did the word "stepney" come from? Well, actually, the word 'stepney' is the name of a street in Wales. A mechanic in the street of Stepney in the town of Llanelly, was the first to provide the ready to use spare wheels. And the product, namely the spare wheels, began to be referred to by the name of the street where they were produced.

What is the difference between "in the end" and "at the end"? (T. Sandhya, Hyderabad)
"In the end" means "finally". It is normally used when you want to give the impression that a conclusion was arrived at after a lot of confusion or uncertainty. For example:

"In the end, the hero runs away with all the money."

"At the end", on the other hand, means at the point when something stops. Here we are thinking of a single event, and not a series of events. Take for example, the following sentence. "At the end of the song, the hero jumps into the river." The single event that we are thinking of here is the end of the song. When we say, "in the end", what we have in mind is a sequence of events, not just one event. You cannot say "In the end of the song." Here are a few more examples.

"At the end of the third day, the little boy ran away."

"In the end, the little boy runs away."

It is wrong to say "in the end of.." It always has to be "at the end of".

Published in The Hindu on September 19, 2000

Word of the day

Boffo:
resoundingly successful and popular

Synonyms: outstanding, triumphant, phenomenal

Usage: *The singer made a boffo comeback this year.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/boffo

International Phonetic Alphabet: /bɒfəʊ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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*As per tests conducted internally with moderate ambient temperature, City Drive with Low HVAC, Dry Road and Optimal Drive Mode. **Indicative savings compared to petrol SUVs, based on monthly usage of 1500–3000 km. Savings include running and maintenance expenses and depreciation benefits. ^^Please check with your tax consultant for eligibility. #Valid for First Registered Owner for 15 years with Private Registration only. In case of ownership change, warranty on HV Battery shall be 10 years or 2 00 000 km – whichever is earlier. ^With 180 kW DC Fast Charger / 400A Charger input. DC Charging time may vary based on ambient temperature, battery temperature, HVAC operation and voltage output from the charger.

CM instructs officials to start tender process for 800 KPS

Siddaramaiah says the KPS project will be launched in Shivamogga on June 1; 1,200 children to be admitted to one school

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has instructed the officials of the School Education and Literacy Department to start the tender process to open 800 Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) across the State.

KPS project

During the review meeting of the department on Wednesday, he said that the KPS project will be launched in Shivamogga on June 1, 2026. Around 1,200 children will receive admission in one KPS, and education will be provided in Kannada and English medium from LKG to II Pre-University Course (PUC). "All 800 KPS should be fully prepared in the next two years," he said.

The Chief Minister also instructed officials to submit a proposal to the Finance Department immediately for the recruitment of 15,000 teachers. "The shortage of teachers is impacting the quality of education in government schools, and it should be addressed immediately," he said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah along with Minister for School Education and Literacy S. Madhu Bangarappa during a meeting in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister instructs officials to submit a proposal immediately for the recruitment of 15,000 teachers

However, officials informed the Chief Minister that they were awaiting resolution of the internal reservation issue, and, with the Cabinet now clearing it, they will incorporate it, submit a proposal to the Finance Department, and issue a notification.

According to department officials, they will be able to complete the recruitment process within 100 days after they get a nod from the Finance Department.

During the meeting, Mr. Siddaramaiah also discussed the results of SSLC and II PUC this year. He appreciated the teachers and department officials for the historic results.

He further instructed the officials to take necessary steps to distribute free textbooks along with free notebooks to students in schools and PU colleges.

School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa, department Principal Secretary Rashmi Mahesh and others were present.

Govt. sets up expert panels to review three major issues

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Higher Education Department has constituted three expert committees to submit recommendations on three major issues: convocation protocol and common dress code, honorary doctorates, and the syllabus. The committee, headed by former Vice-Chancellor Ambalike Hiriyanna, has been asked to study and submit recommendations on convocation protocol and common dress code' during convocations.

This issue was discussed during the recent Vice-Chancellors conclave chaired by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, where the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar were present.

There were suggestions to do away with the western robe. Some Vice-Chancellors and Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar proposed introducing khadi outfits for students and suggested doing away with the black cap worn by students and dignitaries during convocations.

Some V-Cs and Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar proposed introducing khadi outfits and doing away with the black cap worn by students and dignitaries during convocations. GETTY IMAGES

This issue was discussed during the Vice-Chancellors conclave chaired by the Governor

Another committee headed by former Vice Chancellor T.D. Kemparaju will submit recommendations on framing uniform guidelines while awarding honorary doctorates by the universities following controversies over conferring honorary doctorates to politicians and others.

Considering the suggestions by the Vice-Chancellors during the conclave to revise the syllabus for higher education, keeping the present industry needs and employment opportunities in mind, the department has constituted a committee headed by former Vice-Chancellor B. Thimme Gowda to submit a report.

17.5 kg MDMA seized in major drug bust, 8 held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru City Police have busted an inter-State drug smuggling network and arrested eight persons, including three foreign nationals, in connection with the seizure of 17.5 kg of MDMA valued at ₹17.5 crore, with an estimated market value of nearly ₹35 crore.

The accused have been identified as Reena Yadav, 50, from West Delhi; Debashish Banerjee, 66, from New Delhi; Mohammed Mansoor P., 30, from Bengaluru; Danfa Gerald, a Senegal national; Magreth Liginiko Chale, a Tanzania national; Dheeraj, 30, from Delhi; Obianuju Rita Okeke, 34, from Delhi; and Abdul Sammed, 38, from Dakshina Kannada district.

The police said six accused, including three foreign nationals, were arrested from Delhi and Haryana, while two others were arrested in Karnataka.

Addressing reporters on Wednesday, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said the operation was one of the biggest drug seizures made by the city police.

Officials of the Hebbal Police Station received information on May 11 that three persons were selling banned narcotic substances from a car parked near an apartment at Unnathi Layout in Anand Nagar. Based on the tip-off, the police conducted a raid and detained three accused.

During interrogation, the accused allegedly confessed that they had procured MDMA at a lower price from Delhi and were selling it in Bengaluru at higher rates. The police seized 4.18 kg of MDMA, a car used for the crime, and four mobile phones. The police conducted a search at a residence in Chikkanayakanahalli on May 14 and recovered an additional 10.12 kg of MDMA.

Further investigation led police teams to Haryana and Delhi, where four more accused, including foreign nationals allegedly involved in supplying the narcotics, were taken into custody. After obtaining transit remand, the accused were brought to Bengaluru on May 17.

The police said another accused was subsequently arrested near a hospital in Hennur on May 18. Based on his confession, police recovered an additional 3.2 kg of MDMA from his residence.

School staffer held in ₹20K bribery case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Lokayukta police on Tuesday trapped and arrested a case worker attached to the Karnataka Public School at Minerva Circle while allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹20,000 for processing pension-related documents.

The accused, identified as Renukaradhya K.S., 50, was working as a case worker at the school located in V.V. Puram.

According to the Lokayukta police, the complainant, Suresh R., a resident of Raghavendra Swamy Layout in Basapura near Electronic City, had approached the accused to forward his service book, along with the necessary documents, to the Accountant General's office for further processing of pension benefits.

Inmates caught using phones inside central prison

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A surprise inspection conducted by officials of Parappana Agrahara Central Prison on Sunday led to the seizure of four mobile phones, two SIM cards and one set of earphones after inmates were allegedly caught using mobile phones inside the prison premises.

According to the prison authorities, the operation began on May 17 when security personnel detected a prohibited Android mobile phone in Room No. 3 of Security Section-01 during a routine inspection around 7.30 a.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Sri. Nithin Padiyar, Son of N.N. Padiyar,** Residing at No.31, H.M.T Layout, R.T.Nagar, Bengaluru-560 032, has lost the Original Sale Deed dated 10.08.2001, registered as document No.3332/2001-2002, Page Nos.163 to 168, Volume No.1362, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Yelahanka, Bangalore, executed by B.R. Sainath in favour of Smt. N. Latha, in respect of the Schedule Property.

My client has lodged a police complaint in the R.T. Nagar Police Station vide lost report No.2208129/2026, dated 18.05.2026, with regard to the aforesaid document.

General public, are advised not to deal with the aforesaid lost document in any manner and if found the same may be returned to my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property bearing Site No.19, Assessment No.194, Katha No. 279, Situated at Amrutha Halli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South 40 Feet, in all measuring 1200 Sq.ft, and bounded on: **East by:** Govt. Property,; **West by:** Site No. 18, **North by:** 25 Feet Road, **South by:** Govt. Property,

Y.S.H.Reddy. Advocate, No.503, 1st Floor, Sai Leela Suites, No.1, 1st Main, 7th Cross, Parallel to 80 Feet Road, HMT Layout, R.T.Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 032.

CSIR-CENTRAL ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, GOVT. OF INDIA
PILANI, RAJASTHAN - 333031

Advertisement for the posts of TECHNICAL OFFICER & TECHNICIAN (1) vide Advt. No. 01/2026

CSIR-Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-CEERI), Pilani is a premier Research & Development Institute in the field of Electronics under the aegis of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) established in 1953. It undertakes multi-disciplinary R&D activities and projects in the broad areas, namely: Advanced Information Technologies Group; (2) Applied Electronics Group; (3) Diamond Research Group; (4) High-Frequency Devices and System Group; (5) High-Power Microwave Systems Group; (6) Institute R and D Facility Group (IRDFG); (7) Semiconductor Process Technology Group; (8) Semiconductor Sensors and Microsystems Group; (9) Societal Electronics Group and (10) Vacuum Electron Devices Group. CSIR-CEERI also has Centers at Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Jaipur (Rajasthan).

CSIR–CEERI, Pilani invites applications through the online portal for recruitment to the permanent posts of Technical Officer and Technician (1), as detailed below:

Designation	Number of Posts	Pay Level and Pay Matrix	*Total Emoluments	**Upper Age Limit (as on the last date of online application)
Technical Officer [Group-III(3)]	**Total - 08** SC-01, EWS-01, UR-06 Out of 08 posts 02 posts will be reserved for PwBD-VH & HH (backlog).	Pay Level 7 ₹44900 - 142400	₹89,268/- (Approx.)	30 years
Technician (1) [Group-II(1)]	**Total - 14** SC-02, ST-03, EWS-03, UR-06 Out of 14 posts, 02 posts will be reserved for PwBD-HH & ID/MD (including 01 backlog).	Pay Level-2 ₹19900 - 63200	₹39,728/- (Approx.)	28 years

* Total Emoluments means approximate total emoluments on a minimum of scale as on 01.01.2026 including House Rent Allowance (HRA). CSIR-CEERI may provide residential accommodation, if available, as per rules in which case HRA will not be payable.

** Please see details of age relaxation under Age limit & Relaxation column.

The last date for receipt of online applications is **20.06.2026**. For detailed advertisement, eligibility, experience, and other information, please visit the **'Notification/Recruitment'** section on the Institute's website www.ceeri.res.in

CBC 36224/11/0002/2627 **CONTROLLER OF ADMINISTRATION**

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Regional Office : 2254, "Kousalya", 3rd Floor, South Wing, Vinoba Road, Mysore-570 005

DEMAND NOTICE

Channapatna Branch, No. 2911/4-10, B M Road, Kuvempunagar, Channapatna, Ramanagara - 562160 Mail Id: ubin0910821@unionbankofindia.bank.in

Borrower/ Mortgagor : 1) Mrs. Jayarathna W/o Late C M Manjunath, Chikkamaluru, Opposite Parvathi Temple, Channapatna – 562160

Co-Obligant/ Mortgagor /Guarantor : 2) Mrs. Soumya C M W/o Balraju, No. 37/2, 1st Cross, 1st Main, BEML 3rd Stage, Gattigere, Rajarajeshwar Nagara, Bengaluru – 560098

3) Mr. Santhosh C M S/o Late C M Manjunath, Chikkamaluru, Opposite Parvathi Temple, Channapatna – 562160

4) Mr. Sukruth C M S/o Late C M Manjunath, Chikkamaluru, Opposite Parvathi Temple, Channapatna – 562160

Sub : Notice under Sec. 13 (2) read with Sec. 13 (3) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 by **Channapatna Branch**

Loan A/c No.	Amount Due. Rs:	Date of NPA	Demand Notice Date	Description of the Mortgaged Property
560931000160294	**Rs. 36,41,224-00 (Rupees Thirty Six Lakhs Forty One Thousand Two Hundred and Twenty Four Only) As on 31-03-2026**	27-08-2023	11-05-2026	All The Part And Parcel Of The Vacant Site In Name Of **Mrs. Jayarathna,** Bearing Municipal Site No. 336, Katha No 3154, Ward No-1 Chikkamaluru Village, Kasaba Hobli, Channapatna Tq, Ramanagara–562160, **Measuring 36 feets x 48 feets, Bounded By East :** House Of Settar, **West:** Road, **North:** House Of Ramanna, **South:** Parvathidevi Temple.

Notice issued to you u/s 13(2) of The Securitisation& Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 by branch/me, the Authorised Officer, was sent to you calling upon to repay the dues in your loan account/s with us at your last known address could not be served. Therefore, the contents of the said demand notice are being published in this newspaper. The credit facilities/loan facilities availed by you have been classified as NPA. You have executed loan documents while availing the facilities and created security interest in favour of the Bank. The details the credit Facilities and secured assets are as under: Credit facilities availed with outstanding amount. Therefore, you, as borrower, co-borrower and as guarantor in terms of the aforesaid notice have been called upon to pay the aforesaid said amount, together with future interest and charges thereon within 60 days from the date of this publication. That on your failure to comply therewith we, the secured creditor, shall be entitled to exercise all or any of the rights under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. In terms of Section 13(13) of the Act you shall not transfer the secured assets aforesaid from the date of receipt of the notice without Bank's prior consent. Please take note of the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Place : Mysuru **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Date : 21-05-2026 **Union Bank of India**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of E-TENDER NOTICE No. B/TRD.2026-27/06 Dt: 15.05.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Item of work	Approx.Value
Bifurcation of elementary section and modification of umbrella structures at Somanayakkanpatti, Yesvantpur, Hindupur, Gauribidanur, Rangepalli, Sri Sathya Sai Prashanthi Nilayam, Basampalle and Makkajipalli stations	Rs. 91,03,534.98/-

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 15.00 hrs on 05.06.2026**

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Bengaluru

PUB/134/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR @SWRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. Y/E-29/2026-27/22 Dated : 15.05.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

SN	Name of work	Approx.Value
1	Hassan-Mangaluru section replacement of over ages overhead line & faulty UG cable and pumping arrangements under HMRDC section.	Rs. 42,52,691.45/-

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 11.00 hrs on 05.06.2026**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ General/ Mysuru

PUB/138/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR @SWRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that my clients **Mrs. Priyalakshmi Suresh Kumar,** W/o Suresh Kumar Marur Krishnamoorthy and **Mr. Prahalad Suresh,** S/o Suresh Kumar Marur Krishnamoorthy, both Residing at **3042 Prestige South Ridge, Hosakerehalli, Bangalore South, Banashankari III Stage, Bengaluru - 560085, Karnataka, desirous of purchasing the** property mentioned below:

The afore mentioned owner **T S Ushasri** has lost Absolute Sale Deed dated 17/03/2005, registered as document no JAY-1-07122/2004-2005 and lodged a complaint with Bengaluru City Police on 26/2/2024, vide Lost Report No.0950038/2024.

Any Person /s having claim on the Schedule property may contact the undersigned within 10 days from the date of public Notice with supporting documents of the claim, in absence of any Claim or Objection my clients may proceed with the purchase of the schedule property.

SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of land measuring **5588.79 sq. Mtrs.**,bearing Municipal No.**63/1**, ward No. **59**, Jayanagar Zone, Kanakapura Road, 7th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore and bounded by:

East: Kanakapura Road;
West: Property No. 63;
North: Kurzal House; and
South: 27th Cross Road.

SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY

0.83% Undivided share, right title, interest and ownership in the Schedule "A" Property, which comes to **499 sq. Ft.**, undivided share of land.

SCHEDULE "C" PROPERTY

All that **Residential Apartment bearing No. 204**, BBMP PID No. **63/1-63**, EPID No. **1402828238**, in **Second Floor of Block-II of "JAINS PRAKRITI"** and measuring **1132 sq. feet** of built-up area and **204 sq. feet** of proportionate common area and measuring **1336 sq. feet** of super built-up area approximately, one surface car parking is provided and the apartment is bounded by:

East: Open towards Kanakapura Road
West: Apartment No. 203 in "JAINS PRAKRITI"
North: Open towards Block-I in "JAINS PRAKRITI" and
South: Apartment No. 201 in "JAINS PRAKRITI"

Date: 20.05.2026 Sd/-
Place: Bangalore **SWARNA IYER K.S.**
Advocates & Tax Consultants,
No. 166/41, 7th Cross, 3rd Block
Thyagarajanagar, Bangalore – 560070

BENGALURU SMART INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED B-Smile

Office of the Project Engineer-03, Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited No.30/1, 3rd Floor, Thimmaiah Road, Miller Tank Bund Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052

No: B-SMILE/PE-03/TEND/01/2026-27 **Date: 20.05.2026**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER(NIT)

(Through http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only) (Competitive Bidding under Two Cover System)

The Government of Karnataka has constituted "Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited" (B-SMILE) for implementation of Specific Infrastructure works in the city of Bengaluru. On behalf of the Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE), The Project Engineer-03, Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE) invites tenders from eligible contractors registered with CPWD/KPWD / Railways / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the development of work through Engineering Procurement & Construction (EPC) mode. The details of the work are as under.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Amount Put to tender/EMD/Construction Period
1	Construction of Elevated corridor from Sirsi Circle to Nayandahalli on Mysuru Road (Length 5.20 kms) in Bengaluru city under Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) Mode on Lumpsum, Turkey with allowable Price Escalation using Ultra High-Performance Fiber Reinforced Concrete (UHPFRC)-based structures. Including maintenance for a period of ten years. Amount put To tender (Excluding GST) : **Rs. 538.28 Crores,** Earnest Money Deposit : **Rs. 5.38 Crores (Rs. 1.00 Lakhs E-payment & Balance through Surety Bond/ E-BG).** Construc tion Period : **18 Months.**

Calendar of events: 1) Date and time for Availability of Tender documents in KPP Portal **- 25.05.2026 at 17:30 Hours. 2)** Last date for submission of pre bid queries **-04.06.2026 @ 10:00Hours. 3)** Date and time of Pre-bid meeting **: 05.06.2026 @ 15:00Hours, 4)** Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders **24.06.2026 at 16:00 Hours. 5)** Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bids **: 25.06.2026 at 16:30 Hours. 6)** Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid **- Will be Notified. 7)** Validity of Bids : **180 days from Last Date for receipt of tenders.**

Sd/- Project Engineer-03
Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE)

BENGALURU SMART INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED B-Smile

Office of the Project Engineer-02, Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited No.30/1, 3rd Floor, Thimmaiah Road, Miller Tank Bund Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052

No: B-SMILE/PE-02/TEND/02/2026-27 **Date: 20.05.2026**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER(NIT)

(Through http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only) (Competitive Bidding under Two Cover System)

The Government of Karnataka has constituted "Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited" (B-SMILE) for implementation of Specific Infrastructure works in the city of Bengaluru. On behalf of the Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE), The Project Engineer-02, Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE) invites tenders from eligible contractors registered with CPWD/KPWD / Railways / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the development of work through Engineering Procurement & Construction (EPC) mode. The details of the work are as under.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Amount Put to tender/EMD/Construction Period
1	Construction of Elevated Corridor (Flyover) at Konanakunte Cross on Kanakapura road in Bengaluru City (Length 1.50 kms) using Ultra High-Performance Fiber Reinforced Concrete (UHPFRC) under Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) Mode on Lumpsum, Turkey with allowable Price Escalation based structures including Maintenance for a period of 10 years. Amount put To tender (Excluding GST) : **Rs. 7717.98 Lakhs,** Earnest Money Deposit : **Rs. 77.18 Crores (Rs. 1.00 Lakhs E-payment & Balance through Surety Bond/ E-BG).** Construc tion Period : **18 Months.**
2	Construction of Elevated Corridor (Flyover) at Adyar Ananda Bhavan Raghuvanahalli cross, Kanakapura Road in Bengaluru City (Length 0.90 kms) using Ultra High-Performance Fiber Reinforced Concrete (UHPFRC) under Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) Mode on Lumpsum, Turkey with allowable Price Escalation based structures including Maintenance for a period of 10 years. Amount put To tender (Excluding GST) : **Rs. 4210.53 Lakhs.** Earnest Money Deposit : **Rs. 42.11 Crores (Rs. 1.00 Lakhs E-payment & Balance through Surety Bond/ E-BG).** Construc tion Period : **18 Months.**

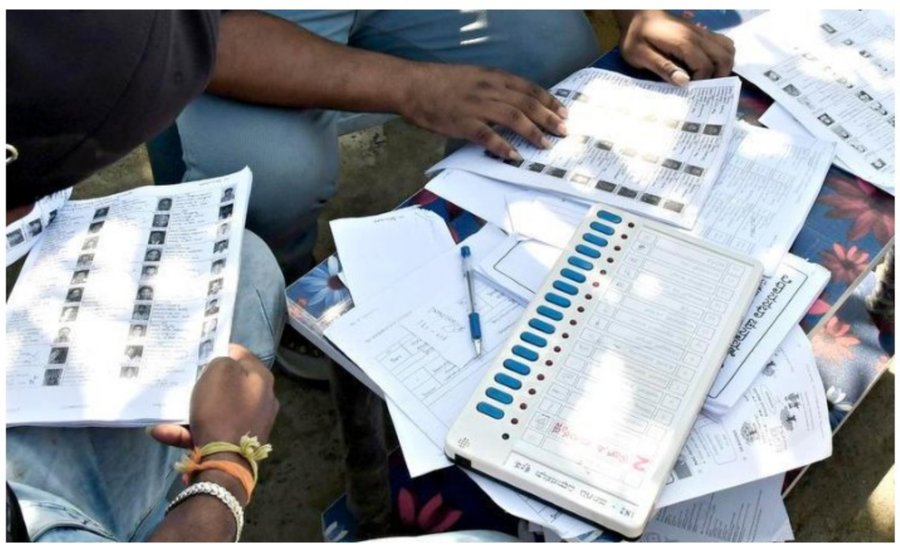
Calendar of events: 1) Date and time for Availability of Tender documents in KPP Portal **- 25.05.2026 at 17:30 Hours. 2)** Last date for submission of pre bid queries **-04.06.2026 @ 16:00Hours. 3)** Date and time of Pre-bid meeting **: 05.06.2026 @ 14:30Hours, 4)** Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders **24.06.2026 at 16:00 Hours. 5)** Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bids **: 25.06.2026 at 16:30 Hours. 6)** Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid **- Will be Notified. 7)** Validity of Bids : **180 days from Last Date for receipt of tenders.**

Sd/- Project Engineer-02
Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE)

CM holds closed-door meeting on SIR; Cabinet may discuss issue today

Ministers say the meeting discussed what options were available before the government politically and legally, and to what extent the State could intervene or respond to the SIR process

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU



This will be the first time that the Congress government in Karnataka is formally discussing the SIR and its implications at the Cabinet level. FILE PHOTO

Shortly after the announcement of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Karnataka, the issue is expected to come up before the State Cabinet on Thursday. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah held a closed-door meeting on Wednesday in this regard. This will be the first time that the Congress government in Karnataka is formally discussing the SIR and its implications at the Cabinet level.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, IT/BT, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge, Tourism and Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil and MLA A.S. Ponnanna.

Ministers said the discussions centered on how the SIR exercise has unfolded in other States, allegations of mass disenfranchisement linked to the process, the legality of the exercise, and what role the State government can play to ensure that the exercise remains inclusive rather than exclusionary.

What legal basis?

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Kharge said the issue would be raised in the Cabinet, and maintained that while the government was not opposed to any form of electoral revision, the "special" revision lacked a legal basis. He said that despite claims that the exercise is inclusive, developments in other States suggested otherwise.

"Discrepancies, logical discrepancies – what do these terms even mean? We are not against revision, but citizenship and voting rights cannot hinge on simple errors. We have also seen how Forms 6 and 7 are misused during the claims and objections stage," he said. He added that the government would discuss what steps could be taken to ensure the exercise "remains only a revision".

The discussions also focused on how the SIR exercise has unfolded in other States

"For someone who has been voting for years, a single spelling mistake or minor errors cannot decide citizenship. If there is an error, the solution is to allow correction," Mr. Ponnanna said. He argued that there was no clear legal basis for "logical discrepancies" and the category invites arbitrary deletions and disenfranchisement. "There cannot be a perceived notion about voters based on which lines are drawn on who stays and who goes. Dead and duplicate voters should certainly be identified, but the exercise has no authority to declare an elector as a foreign national," he said.

State's options

Ministers said the meeting also discussed what options were available to the government politically and legally, and to what extent the State could intervene or respond to the SIR process.

NIMHANS' suicide prevention programme to be expanded across Bengaluru South

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A community-based suicide prevention programme piloted in Channapatna taluk is set to be expanded across the entire Bengaluru South district following encouraging results from a three-year intervention led by NIMHANS.

The expansion of Project SURAKSHA was announced on Wednesday by the NIMHANS Suicide Prevention, Research, Implementation Training and Engagement Centre (NSPRITE) in collaboration with the Karnataka government and Himalaya Wellness Company.

Launched in 2023 in Channapatna taluk, the programme is described by NIMHANS as India's first sustained community-based suicide prevention initiative.

It was developed in line with the National Suicide Prevention Strategy, 2022, and the World Health Organisation's LIVE LIFE framework.

The project will now be extended to all five taluks of Bengaluru South district. The State government has also approved the first phase of implementation in Ballari district, one of the districts reporting high numbers of suicides, said Anish V. Cherian, principal investigator of Project SURAKSHA, Lead of NSPRITE and Additional Professor in the Department of Psychiatric Social Work at NIMHANS.

In 32 gram panchayats

According to the project report released on Wednesday, the pilot programme operated across 32 gram panchayats in Channapatna taluk and focused on surveillance, crisis intervention, awareness generation and restriction of access to lethal means.

A major component of the programme involved setting up community-based surveillance teams comprising panchayat representatives, teachers, healthcare workers, self-help group members and frontline staff trained to identify vulnerable individuals and provide referrals.

Dr. Cherian said 795 trained community members conducted around 300 stakeholder visits and reached more than 6,000 people during the project period.

The programme also conducted suicide gatekeeper training sessions for 4,185 frontline workers, including police personnel, anganwadi workers, PHC staff, fire and safety officers, educators and students. Project SURAKSHA also reached over 14,000 students in schools and colleges through awareness sessions.

As of February 2026, over 1.7 lakh individuals in the taluk have been reached through the dissemination of IEC materials. The initiative also established self-harm registries across 69 hospitals and health centres to systematically record suicide attempts and provide follow-up care. A total of 1,261 cases were recorded, the report stated.

No repeat attempts

Dr. Cherian said no repeat suicide attempts had been reported among individuals who received intervention and follow-up support under the programme.

As of February 2026, the project's helpline received over 193 calls, including 33 crisis calls requiring immediate intervention.

NIMHANS Director Prabha S. Chandra said,"The need of the hour is to build an ecosystem that supports persons who attempt suicide and prevents repeat attempts."

In the next phase, trained mental health professionals will conduct home visits to provide psychological first aid and grief counselling to families affected by suicide.

Jeweller duped of ₹3 crore gold by conmen

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A three-member gang posing as prospective wholesale buyers allegedly duped a jewellery firm and escaped with gold ornaments worth nearly ₹3 crore in Malleswaram.

Based on a complaint filed by Mahendra Kumar D. Jain, sales manager of Mehta Gold Pvt. Ltd., the Malleswaram police have registered an FIR against Paresh Soni, Chandrashekhar Rao and Shyam.

According to the complaint, Mr. Kumar and another employee, Prakash, were instructed by their senior colleague on May 16 to carry 3 kg of gold jewellery samples from the firm's Nagarathpet outlet to the Maahi Enterprise office in Malleswaram.

The police said Paresh Soni had introduced himself as a Delhi-based wholesale gold trader interested in purchasing jewellery in bulk from the firm. The employees reached the office around 3.15 p.m. carrying various gold ornament designs in a bag.

At the office, Soni allegedly introduced two associates – Shyam and Chandrashekhar Rao. Soni then allegedly handed over nearly 1.85 kg of gold ornaments to Chandrashekhar Rao, seated in an adjacent cabin, on the pretext of preparing a list and photographing jewellery designs. Investigators said Rao fled with the jewellery, while Shyam escaped after telling the complainants that he would bring Rao back. Efforts are on to trace them.

The Forest Minister has instructed officials to ensure that no tourists get down from safari vehicles and enter forest areas.

Replace open safari jeeps with safer buses: Khandre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Open safari vehicles have been banned from operating in Karnataka's tiger reserves and wildlife sanctuaries.

Environment Minister Eshwar B. Khandre on Wednesday instructed the Chief Wildlife Warden to instead deploy buses which are equipped with iron meshes and shatterproof glasses and modify the existing vehicles.

The directions come in the wake of a fatal incident at the Dubare Elephant Camp which claimed the life of a woman tourist.

In eight places

In Karnataka, safaris are conducted at the Bandipur National Park, Nagarhole National Park, Kali Tiger Reserve, Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Hills (B.R. Hills), Bhadra Tiger Reserve, Male Mahadeshwara Hills (M.M. Hills), Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary, and K. Gudi.

The Minister said these tiger reserves and wildlife sanctuaries are frequented by tourists and wildlife enthusiasts from all over India and abroad. These measures are being put in place to ensure their safety.

"Fortunately, so far, there have been no incidents of wild animals like elephants and tigers attacking safari vehicles and causing loss of life in safari areas. However, it is important to take precautions and avert mishaps," the Environment Minister underscored.

No getting down

Mr. Khandre has also instructed officials to ensure that no tourists get down from safari vehicles and enter forest areas.

The Minister further stated that ambulances should be deployed near safari centres and elephant camps, in addition to ensuring that every safari vehicle is equipped with first aid kits.

2.5 tmcft of Cauvery water to be supplied from Kollegal to Bengaluru's industrial areas

Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil says the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal had allocated 4 tmcft of water for industrial purposes; of this, only 1.37 tmcft is being utilised

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka has drawn up a plan to pump 2.5 tmcft of Cauvery water to industrial areas in and around Bengaluru.

In a meeting in Bengaluru on Wednesday, Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil said that the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal had allocated 4 tmcft of water for industrial purposes. Of this, only 1.37 tmcft is currently being utilised, he pointed out.

"A plan has now been drawn up to pump 2.5 tmcft of water out of the remaining 2.63 tmcft to industrial areas in and around Bengaluru," he explained.

Enhanced storage

Mr. Patil explained that the government had prepared a plan to enhance the storage capacity of the Agara and Maddur lakes in Kollegal taluk of Chamarajanagar district and to pump water from there to supply Cauvery river water to industrial areas around Bengaluru.

He said that farmers in the command area who are presently cultivating only one crop will be benefited by the project, which, if implemented, will help them grow two crops a year.

The government plans to enhance the storage capacity of the Agara and Maddur lakes and to pump water from there to supply Cauvery water to industrial areas around Bengaluru . FILE PHOTO

"We are not using the Cauvery water allocated for agriculture. Instead, we are utilising the water reserved for industrial purposes. During the monsoon season, water will be pumped directly from the Cauvery river for 120 days, while during the remaining period, water will be drawn from these lakes. For this purpose, the storage capacity of the lakes will be increased tenfold. This, in turn, will also benefit farmers," he said.

Meeting with farmers

The Minister held discussions with A.R. Krishnamurthy, Kollegal MLA, and sought to allay concerns related to the project. He also directed the officials concerned to organise a meeting with farmers at the earliest.

Mr. Patil said that storage capacities of the Agara and Maddur lakes would be enhanced from the present 0.156 tmcft and 0.111 tmcft to 1.156 tmcft and 1.112 tmcft respectively. He clarified that only the depth of these lakes would be increased, and no fresh land acquisition would be taken up in the process of enhancing their capacity.

He further clarified that the project would not cause any hardship to farmers in the command area of these lakes.

Mr. Patil said the Chikkahole and Suvarnamukhi lakes located downstream in the region would also be developed. Water in these lakes would be made available to farmers throughout the year for agricultural operations.

Urging farmers not to pay heed to rumours and misinformation, the Minister said the project would help improve groundwater levels and promote fisheries, boating, and tourism activities.

Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Managing Director Mahesh said the locations of the Agara and Maddur lakes were ideally suited for creating the required water storage facility to supply water to industrial areas. He said the objective of the project would not be effectively achieved if implemented elsewhere.

Mixed response to call for shutdown of medical stores in State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A nation-wide call given by the All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD) to close medical stores on Wednesday in protest against online sale of medicines received a mixed response in Karnataka.

While medical stores affiliated to the Karnataka Chemists and Druggists' Association (KCDA) and Bengaluru Pharma Retailers and Distributors' Forum (BPRDF) remained closed, the Karnataka Pharma Retailers and Distributors Organisation extended moral support to the protest and asked chemists to continue business wearing black badges instead of downing shutters. Likewise, stores affiliated to the Bangalore District Chemists and Druggists' Association (BDCDA) also functioned with chemists wearing black badges.

The AIOCD represents more than 12.4 lakh medicine traders across the country. Karnataka alone has around 45,000 retail medicine shops. However, only a section of them participated in the shutdown. Medical stores operating within hospitals, including government hospitals, also remained open.

Raghunath Reddy R., president of KCDA and BPRDF, claimed that the bandh on Wednesday was a success, with all 26,000 stores affiliated to the associations remaining shut.

"In Bengaluru, around 6,500 stores affiliated to our association participated in the protest. The strike was inevitable as online pharmacies are openly bypassing The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, which prohibits direct home delivery and online sale of medicines," he said.

Pointing out that e-pharmacies were flouting price control regulations by offering huge discounts of up to 40%, far beyond the 16% to 20% retail margin fixed for traditional shops, he said such practices threatened the survival of small retailers.

BDCDA president B. Thirunavukkarasu said that their protest was staged without shutting down pharmacies.

The call to shut medical stores was given to mainly protest the online sale of medicines. SUDHAKARA JAIN

State can't deny extra payment to contractor citing terms of contract when it increases minimum wages: High Court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka held that the State cannot deny payment of the differential amount to a contractor who incurred higher wage costs due to revised minimum wages during a subsisting contract, merely because the contract was based on earlier rates, and directed the Karnataka Legislative Assembly (KLA) secretariat to pay ₹3.5 crore with 12% interest to a manpower-supplying firm.

"A contract entered into by the State cannot override statutory obligation. Any clause in the contract which has the effect of defending a statutory mandate is unenforceable in law. The doctrine is well settled that there can be no estoppel against the Statute," the court observed.

Model employer

Therefore, the court made it clear that "even assuming that the contract did not provide for escalation and there is a clause indicating that any escalation revision shall be borne by the contractor, the State being an instrumentality under Article 12 of the Constitution, is expected to act as a model employer and cannot take advantage of contractual rigidity to indirectly compel violation of labour welfare statutes".

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum passed the order while allowing a petition filed by Asian Security and Personnel Arrangements, Bengaluru.

The petitioner had challenged the action of the KLA, which in 2024 had rejected the petitioner's bill for payment of ₹3.5 crore in addition to the contractual amount in view of the State government's 2016 notification of increasing minimum wages.

Rejecting the State's stand that the petitioner is bound by the terms of the contract, which was as per the then existing minimum wage rates, the court said that the stand taken by the State is "irrational, unreasonable, and contrary to public policy".

"The obligation to pay minimum wages is not merely a contractual stipulation but a statutory and constitutional obligation," Justice Magadum observed, further noting that any payment below notified minimum wages would amount to forced labour under Article 23 of the Constitution, while upholding the right of the contractor to seek enhanced amount for payment of hiked minimum wage.

Plea declined

The court also declined the State's plea to relegate the petitioner to arbitration in terms of clauses of the contract, noting that the grievance stemmed from the government's own statutory notification on minimum wages, making the matter amenable to judicial review.

DKS dares BJP leaders to use public transport on a daily basis

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking a dig at BJP leaders for "symbolically" travelling by metro trains to support the Prime Minister's call to use public transport, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday challenged BJP State leaders to travel by public transport on a daily basis rather than use public transport only for photoshoots.

Speaking to the press in Bengaluru, Mr. Shivakumar said, "BJP leaders use public transport for a day or two as a symbolic response to the Prime Minister's call to adopt austerity measures. Will Union Minister V. Somanna (who travelled by metro recently), other Ministers, and BJP leaders travel by public transport every single day?"

D.K. Shivakumar

Criticising the Prime Minister for his call to desist from buying gold, he said, "How can you tell someone not to buy gold at their own wedding and not to tie the *mangalya?* It is a symbol of our religion."

When asked about Former Minister K.N. Rajanna's statement that Home Minister G. Parameshwara should become Chief Minister if there is a change in the post, he said, "Why is Rajanna trying to change the Chief Minister? If he wants Dr. Parameshwara to become Chief Minister, does he want the incumbent to step down?"

Forest-dwelling tribes push for direct recruitment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Members of 12 forest-dwelling tribes, who were promised representation in the State's civil services in the 2025-26 Budget proposals, have urged the State government to initiate the process for direct recruitment.

The government had announced that 12 tribes residing on the forest fringes – Jenu Kuruba, Iruliga, Koraga, Soliga, Yarava, Paniyan, Halasaru, Gowdalu, Siddi, Betta Kuruba, Kadu Kuruba, Kudiya, and Malekudiya – would be given jobs in the civil services through a special direct recruitment. However, the government is yet to start the process.

On Wednesday, members of the Karnataka State Forest Dwellers Tribal People's Federation met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi to press for their demands to be implemented. They have threatened to launch an agitation if the government fails to fulfill its promise.

The government had stated that 12 tribes living on the forest fringes would be given civil services jobs. FILE PHOTO

The population of these tribes does not exceed two lakh. Though these tribes are part of the 50 tribes in the Scheduled Tribes list in Karnataka, a report from National Law School of India University (NLSIU) has also shown that they have failed to find representation in public services.

"So far, two rounds of consultations have taken place. Officials have proposed direct recruitment for Category C and D jobs. However, we want it to be extended to Category A and B too, since this will be a one-off direct recruitment," a representative of the Iruliga tribe said.

"The reservation for STs in the last 75 years has not benefited forest-dwelling tribes since the educated among them are unable to compete with other tribes that are economically, educationally, and socially better off. If one generation is given government jobs, it can help these tribes develop," said R.V. Chandrashekar from the Centre for the Study of Social Inclusion at NLSIU. Within the 3% reservation, these tribes cannot compete with others, he said.

BEL sees 16% growth in revenue from operations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has registered a growth of 16% in revenue from operations during the financial year 2025-26.

The defence PSU said it achieved revenue from operations of ₹27,479.63 crore during FY 2025-26, up from ₹23,658.01 crore recorded during the previous year.

During the fourth quarter of FY 2025-26, BEL achieved revenue from operations of ₹10,177.17 crore, up from ₹9,119.71 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year.

BEL said Profit Before Tax (PBT) during FY 2025-26 stood at ₹8,075.04 crore, a growth of 13.89% over ₹7,089.99 crore in the previous year.

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
Head Office:10-152/1, Ashok nagar, Bandar Road, Vijayawada-520007.

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Lr.No.Mktg.M6/RG Dall/Tenders/July'2026 to September'2026 Dt: 20.05.2026.

BIDS ARE INVITED FROM ELIGIBLE BIDDERS FOR SUPPLY OF 2,250.000 MTs (+ or - 25%) OF R.G DALL IN 1 KG PACKET FORM WITH SECONDARY PACKING IN 50 KG NEW POLYPROPYLENE (PP) BAGS UNDER ICDS/THR SCHEMES FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY'2026 TO SEPTEMBER'2026 (Three Months) TO ALL THE MLS POINTS OF (28) DISTRICTS IN ANDHRA PRADESH STATE.

All the interested R.G Dall Manufacturers in All Over India may **visit www.apscscl.in & www.neml.in** to view and download tender documents at free of cost.

Interested bidders need to register in portal as vendor with NCDEX e Markets Limited to participate in the tenders. **Contact Tel: 9962059599 or 9032429420 or 9885549722 and Email: askus@neml.in.**

Last date for registration and completion of formalities for the e-auction shall be up to 29.05.2026 at 5 p.m and the tentative date of online e-auction through NeML platform would be 01.06.2026 from 11.00 AM onwards.

Sd/- S. DILLI RAO, I.A.S
VC & Managing Director.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No.DGM-3/BSWML/TEND/04/2026-27 Date: 19.05.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(Only Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Tender documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (non-refundable) in the form of e-Payment through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The Bidder shall submit the bid through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.

SL. NO	Name of the Work	Estimated amount Rs.in lakhs	EMD (in Rupees)	Stipulated Period of Service Contract
1	Inert Landfill Area Protection and Nuisance Reduction Works in and around Hullahalli Inert Landfill Site in Bengaluru South Constituency, including enzyme spraying, safety measures and allied basic infrastructure works.	1600.17	Rs. 1.00 lakh through e-payment under the following i.e. online /RTGS/ NEFT/ OTC and the balance Rs.15,00,170/- by Bank Gurantee/FDR issued by Nationalised/Scheduled Bank	09 Months

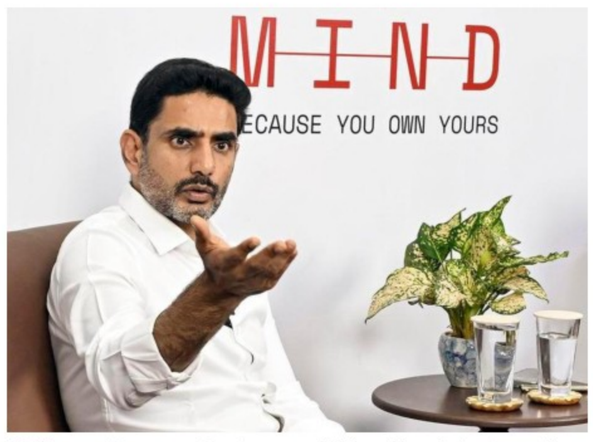
Calendar of Events: **(1)** Last date to upload pre-bid queries: **25.05.2026 upto 15.00 Hrs.** in KPP Portal. (2) Pre bid meeting: **25.05.2026 at 15.00 Hrs** at the office of CE & CGM-2 (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore (3) Last date for submission of the bids **29.05.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs** (4) Date of opening of Technical bid on: **30.05.2026 at 16.30 Hrs** (5) Date of opening of Financial bids to be notified to technically qualified bidders.

NOTE:

1. Aspiring Bidders/Contractors who have not registered in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal should the website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** register before participating through the website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**
2. Any Addendum/Corrigendum shall be published in the KPP Portal only.

DIPR/CP/755/SHIRDI SAI/2026-27

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML.



A.P. Human Resources Development Minister Nara Lokesh speaking at the *The Hindu* Mind Series in New Delhi. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Nara Lokesh stresses need for debate on demographic decline

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Incentives given to families in Andhra Pradesh at the birth of third and fourth children are an effort at population management, not mandatory by any means, and a way to draw attention to the State's low and declining Total Fertility Rate (TFR), according to State Information Technology and Electronics and Human Resource Development Minister Nara Lokesh.

Speaking at *The Hindu* Mind series of curated conversations in New Delhi, Mr. Lokesh said that a debate over demographic challenges was a necessity in current times.

State benefit

"Andhra Pradesh today is at a TFR of 1.5, below the replacement rate of 2.1. We are not mandating that families should have more children, but pointing out that it is important to have this conversation. As a State, we felt that this is the right way to create a mechanism where families that choose to have more children are supported by the State," he said.

"We believe that this 1.5 TFR will further drop before it gets any better. Therefore, I think it is important to have this debate," he said. Concerns over declining population rates were part of the Chief Minister's "ability to look at things 30 years ahead", Mr. Lokesh said.

"You cannot look at the whole of India's number and say, 'Yes, we are at the replacement rate'... The North is a lot higher [in terms of TFR], while the South is much less," he added. Responding to a question on allegations that the move could keep women away from the workforce due to childcare responsibilities, Mr. Lokesh reiterated that the policy was an incentive and not mandatory.

Kerala govt. cancels K-Rail project launched by LDF

CM Satheesan says it posed an environmental disaster and was economically unviable; UDF govt. to return land acquired for the project to owners and withdraw cases filed against protesters

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Cabinet on Wednesday decided to scrap the K-Rail (SilverLine) semi-high-speed railway project from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod.

The 530-km project had been launched by the previous Left Democratic Front (LDF) government led by Pinarayi Vijayan. The State had witnessed strong protests led by the Congress-led United Democratic Front against the project since 2022.

Protesters throwing one of the concrete markers of the Silver Line project into a river in Kottayam in 2022. VISHNU PRATHAP

Markers to go

Speaking to the press after the Cabinet meeting, Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan said all the land acquired for the project would be denotified and the concrete markers for rail line would be removed.

The Chief Minister, however, did not rule out the possibility of the UDF government coming up with its own semi-high-speed rail project. "We are not against high-speed rail projects. We opposed K-Rail because it was an environmental disaster and not economically viable. The LDF government had given up on the project and other projects were being discussed. Unfortunately, the land acquired for the project was not denotified, due to which people were suffering as they couldn't sell or pledge their property. All the cases connected with the agitation will be withdrawn," he said.

Ahead of the Assembly election, Mr. Satheesan had said the UDF would return the land acquired for SilverLine if voted to power. The BJP had also been against the project, saying the project lacked Central approval. The project was expected to reduce travel time between the two ends of the State to four hours.

(With PTI inputs)

3 juveniles held for robbery, vehicle theft

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Rajarajeshwarinagar police have caught three juveniles for allegedly assaulting a youth, robbing him of cash, and stealing his two-wheeler.

According to the police, the complainant, a resident of Kenchenahalli, lodged a complaint on May 15. He stated that on the same night, his son was near Ideal Homes when four unidentified persons on a two-wheeler intercepted him, assaulted him, and robbed ₹200 cash and his two-wheeler. The police said the accused later texted the victim on Instagram that the stolen vehicle had been abandoned near Jayanna Circle.

On Wednesday, three suspects were apprehended near Village City Kalyana Mantapa within the station limits along with a two-wheeler.

Elderly woman dies of amoebic infection

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

A 73-year-old woman from Nellikuzhi in Kothamangalam in Ernakulam district of Kerala has died of primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM).

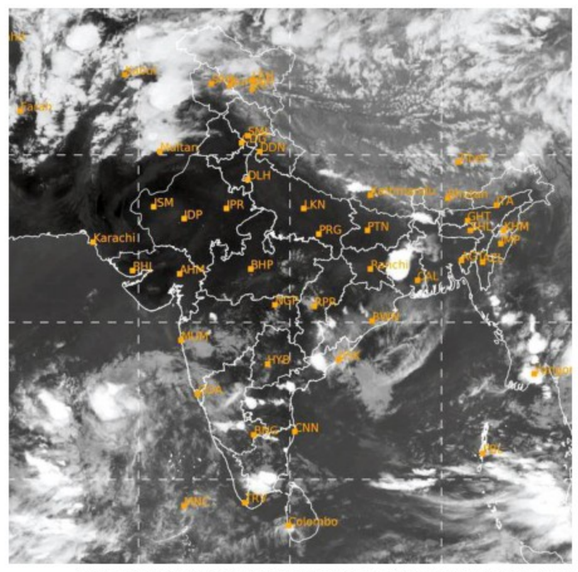
The rare but lethal central nervous system infection is caused by *Naegleria fowleri*, a free-living amoeba found in freshwater, lakes, and rivers. It can also survive in poorly maintained swimming pools.

The woman had developed symptoms of the infection, including fever and headache, on May 6.

A worker under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, she is suspected to have washed her face using water collected from a canal. After her death, the panchayat health wing carried out superchlorination of water sources, including wells.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Heat wave/severe heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	36.0	27.1	Kozhikode	2	34.0	26.2
Ahmedabad	—	43.7	28.3	Kurnool	—	40.5	29.5
Aizawl	—	32.9	21.9	Lucknow	—	43.2	28.8
Allahabad	—	46.4	29.0	Madurai	—	39.0	27.1
Bengaluru	—	32.2	22.2	Mangaluru	2	33.0	25.2
Bhopal	—	42.6	29.6	Mumbai	—	34.0	27.2
Bhubaneswar	—	36.8	29.2	Mysuru	—	32.2	22.0
Chandigarh	—	44.0	26.4	New Delhi	—	44.5	28.3
Chennai	—	42.0	29.0	Patna	—	38.4	28.6
Coimbatore	—	34.4	25.2	Port Blair	0.3	32.0	27.9
Dehradun	—	40.6	24.7	Puducherry	—	37.9	26.0
Gangtok	—	22.5	18.6	Pune	—	38.4	24.2
Goa	—	34.0	27.3	Raipur	—	43.5	29.8
Guwahati	—	35.6	26.4	Ranchi	—	38.5	25.0
Hubballi	—	31.0	24.0	Shillong	—	24.6	16.4
Hyderabad	—	39.5	29.2	Shimla	—	32.8	23.0
Imphal	—	32.9	20.5	Srinagar	—	30.3	17.8
Jaipur	—	43.2	31.1	Thiruvananthapuram	9	32.0	26.1
Kochi	—	31.8	26.6	Tiruchi	—	38.1	27.6
Kohima	—	28.0	18.0	Vijayawada	—	44.2	29.4
Kolkata	—	36.4	28.8	Visakhapatnam	—	35.3	30.3

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.46	207	43	74	109	
Bengaluru	.12	47	47	—	112	
Chennai	1	17	—	27	111	
Delhi	.30	141	45	185	245	
Hyderabad	.19	15	37	75	91	
Kolkata	.11	24	19	61	90	
Lucknow	9	25	51	156	158	
Mumbai	.29	6	14	94	99	
Pune	—	42	96	20	53	
Visakhapatnam	.32	58	12	81	170	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Charkhi Dadri, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 308 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, PUTTUR

Near Kille Maidan, Court Road, Puttur, Dakshina Kannada – 574 201
Website: www.putturcity.mrc.gov.in Email: co.puttur@gmail.com

PCMC/CW07/CR NO/04/2026-27 Date: 19/05/2026

Tender Notice

(Only through the Karnataka Government E-Procurement Portal)

In the jurisdiction of Puttur City Municipal Council, tenders are invited from eligible contractors for the following work through the Karnataka Government's E-Procurement portal, in accordance with the rules on **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** A total of **1 work** is included in the tender.

(1) Pre-Bid Meeting Date: **25/05/2026 at 11:30 AM** (2) Venue: City Municipal Council, Puttur, Kille Maidan, Court Road, Puttur. (3) Last Date for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **03/06/2026 at 11:30 AM**. (4) Last Date and Time for Submission of Tender: **04/06/2026 at 5:30 PM.** (5) Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bids: **06/06/2026 at 11:00 AM.** (6) Date and Time for Opening of Financial Bids: **08/06/2026 at 11:00 AM.**

GST tax will be paid separately. Contractors should quote rates excluding GST in the tender schedule. Any changes in dates or amendments to the tender will be published through corrigendum/addendum on the E-Procurement portal. For further details, contact the Technical Section of the City Municipal Council or obtain information through the E-Procurement portal. Any corrections or changes will also be published on the E-Procurement portal.

(1) Development and rejuvenation of Mahalingeshwara Temple Kalyani in Puttur town under Amrith 2.0 **DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT56287/call-2**, Tender Amount **Rs. 373.95 lakhs.**

Sd/-, Administrator, C.M.C PUTTUR **Sd/-, Commissioner C.M.C PUTTUR**

DIPR/DK/KSMCA/244/26-27 dt. 20.05.2026

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

Multi Storied Building, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru- 560001.

No. ED/5/EGOV/2026 Date:19.05.2026

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

The Karnataka State Higher Education Academy is an academy under the department of Higher Education, Government of Karnataka invites application from qualified and competent candidates for the position of the **Director, Karnataka State Higher Education Academy. Haliyal Road, Dharwad, Karnataka-580003.** Interested candidates may apply by sending detailed in the prescribed format to **dsuniversities@gmail.com** The details are given below. The last date for receiving email application along with CV is **30.05.2026 (05.00 P.M.).**

- Applicant must be a Professor in a Government Higher Education Institutions of the State/Public Universities (State & Central)/Institute of National Importance of Government of India.
- Ph.D. from a recognized University.
- Minimum 15 years of teaching/research experience in Higher Education and Minimum 5 years in a senior academic administrative position.
- Age must not exceed 60 years as on the closing date of application.
- Must not have any pending disciplinary or vigilance proceedings.
- Appointment for the period of 5 years or till age of 65 years whichever is earlier.
- The Director must draw the his/her own salary and grade during his tenure, addition to director allowance of Rs.10.000/-. If a retired person is appointed as Director, the emoluments shall be reduced by the amount of pension and allowances drawn by him and other emoluments.

For Application format, visit **https://hed.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- (V.T. Rajyashree)
Deputy Secretary to the Government (Universities), Department of Higher Education)

DIPR/CP/JA/751/2026-27

TAMIL NADU NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY

(A University established by Tamil Nadu Act No.9 of 2012)
Navalurkuttappattu, Tiruchirappalli – 620 027, Tamil Nadu, INDIA
Phone Off: 0431-2692102, E-mail : registrar@tnnlu.ac.in www.tnnlu.ac.in

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS- PROJECT EYALVATHU KARAVEL

The last date for submission of applications pursuant to the advertisement dated 02nd April 2026, notified on the TNNLU website under Project Eyalvathu Karavel, is hereby extended. Tamil Nadu National Law University invites applications for the following :

Project Administrative Positions (Contractual positions from June 2026 to November 2028) and **Pro Bono Advocacy Fellowship Programme** (18 Months).

S.No.	Position	No. of Vacancies	Last date of receiving applications
1	Project Co-ordinator	1	11.59 PM, 07th June, 2026
2	Program Manager	1	
3	Documentation Officer	1	
4	Office Assistant	1	
5	Accountant	1	
6	Fellows- Pro Bono Advocacy Fellowship Programme	10	11.59 PM, 31st May, 2026

For detailed notification, eligibility criteria and application forms, visit: **https://www.tnnlu.ac.in/Recruitment-Notification**

NOTE - Candidates who have already applied pursuant to the earlier website notification **need not** apply afresh.

DIPR/431/DISPLAY/2026 **REGISTRAR**

ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಅಪ್ಪಾಜಿ ಲೇಔಟ್, ಕೊತ್ತಿಪುರ ಗ್ರಾಮ (ಪಡೇರಹಳ್ಳಿ ರೈಲ್ವೆಗೇಟ್ ಹತ್ತಿರ), ರಾಮನಗರ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–562159. Phone: 080-29911780,, E-Mail: ddkandmgka@gmail.com

ಸಂ.: ಗಭೂಇ/ಉನಿಬೆಂದ/ಬಹ/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.05.2026

ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಮನಗರ, ಮಾಗಡಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಹಲಸಬೆಲೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.58 ರ 6–35 ಎಕರೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಕುರಿತು ದಿನಾಂಕ:03.10.2019 ರಂದು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ವರದಿ ನೀಡಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.58 ರ ಅರ್ಜಿತ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆ ನಡೆಸಿ 103 ಅಲಂಕಾರಿಕ ಶಿಲಾದಿಮ್ಮಿಗಳನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದು ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡದೇ ಸ್ಥಳದಲ್ಲೇ ದಾಸ್ತಾನು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಟಾಸ್ಕ್ ಫೋರ್ಸ್ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚರ್ಚಿಸಲಾಗಿ ಸಭೆಯು ಸರ್ವಾನುಮತದಿಂದ ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. **ಅದರಂತೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಉಪವಿಭಾಗಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಕಂದಾಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮತ್ತು ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಮನಗರ ರವರ ಸಮ್ಮುಖದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.06.2026 ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಮನಗರ ಇಲ್ಲಿ 103 ಅಲಂಕಾರಿಕಾ ಶಿಲಾದಿಮ್ಮಿಗಳನ್ನು "ಎಲ್ಲಿದಿಯೋ ಹೇಗಿದೆಯೋ ಹಾಗೆಯೇ" ಹರಾಜು ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು** ಎಂದು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಖನಿಜದ ವಿಧ, ಕೋಡ್ ಸ್ಥಳ, ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ದರ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜಧನ ವಿವರ (As per Schedule-II, III & Form O)	ಕ್ಯೂಬಿಕ್ ಮೀ.	ಖನಿಜ ಮೌಲ್ಯ ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (25%) ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ
1	1. As per Form O, Granites: (3) Pink Gneisses and Mygmatites (Multicoloured Ganites) Granites: (a) with Fractures and Large Black patches and unsized ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು As per Schedule-III, PGM-1 Minimum rate 3000/Cu.Mt. 2. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಾಗಡಿ ತಾಲೂಕು, ಹಲಸಬೆಲೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ. 58ರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ವಶಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾದ 103 ಬಹುವರ್ಣೀಯ ಶಿಲಾದಿಮ್ಮಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಯಮ 47ರಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇದರ ಒಟ್ಟು ಪ್ರಮಾಣ 423.69 ಕ್ಯೂಬಿಕ್ ಮೀ.	423.69	12,71,070/-	3,17,768/-
	ಒಟ್ಟು	**423.69**	**12,71,070/-**	**3,17,768/-**

ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವವರು ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗದ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ರೂ. 1000/– ಹಾಗೂ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತಗಳನ್ನು ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಮನಗರ ಇವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ Demand Draft ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಾವತಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಮಾರಾಟ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿಯ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಖನಿಜದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **ತಹಶೀಲ್ದಾರ್ ಕಛೇರಿ ಮಾಗಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಮನಗರ** ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸೂಚನಾ ಫಲಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **9844183858, 9900501140.**

ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಟಾಸ್ಕ್‌ಫೋರ್ಸ್ (ಗಣಿ) ಸಮಿತಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಮನಗರ.

DIPR/BSD/63/SA/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ರಾಯಚೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
E-mail:itstaff_ulb_raichurn@yahoo.com Website:-www.raichurcity.gov.in
Phone No:08532-226768 Fax No:08532-226316

ಸಂ:ರಾಮಪ/ಎಸ್.ಡಬ್ಲೂ.ಎಂ/ಮ.ನಿ/01/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19–05–2026.

ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ / ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2.0 ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ).

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ತೋರಿಸಿದ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2.0 ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ / ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಚಿಸುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು / ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು WWW.KPPP.Karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ WWW.raichurcity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ಅನುದಾನದ ವಿವರ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ
1	ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ	Selection of agency to support door to door collection and transportation of segregated waste, public awareness, behavior change, including stakeholder and officers training to make Raichur city garbage free and achieve better ranking (As a Pilot Project for 15 Wards of The City) **Estimate Cost Rs. 3,64,00,000/-**	DMA/2025-26/SE7146 / CALL-2
2		Operation and Maintenance of Robotic UGD Machine hole Cleaning System (Bandicoot Robot). **Estimate Cost Rs. 50,00,000/-**	DMA/2026-27/SE7902

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ರಾಯಚೂರು.

DIP/RCR/75KSMCA/77/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CHAMARAJANAGARA DIVISION, CHAMARAJANAGARA
Phone/Fax : 08226-295048 e-mail : eecnr@kpwd.gov.in / pwdeechngr@gmail.com

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only)
(Two Cover System : Section-1-Technical Bid and Section-2-Financial Bid)
Short Term Tender Notification No 10/2026-27 Dated : 18-05-2026 (Call-3)

Item rate tenders are invited through Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only on behalf of Governor of Karnataka from Eligible registered civil Contractor in KPWD in Standard Bid document **KW-3 & KW-4** form The Total no of works is 1, **H/A : 5054-80-190-0-01-132 KRDCL Works** maximum estimated cost is Rs. 50.00 lakhs, **AND** The Total no. of works is 1, **H/A : 4059-80-051-0-06-(SCP) Works** maximum estimated cost is Rs. 100.00 lakhs, Further changes in this Notification will be published in Kppp.karnataka.gov.in Only. Date of events as follows:

1	Date and Time for downloading the tender document from the Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal	From 19-05-2026 to 29-05-2026 upto 16.00 Hrs.
2	Pre-Bid Meeting Date	26-05-2026 in Division Office Meeting Hall at 11.00 AM
3	Downloading the tender document from the Last Date and Time	29-05-2026 upto 16.00 Hrs.
4	Date & Time for opening of Technical bid	30-05-2026 upto 16.30 Hrs.
5	Date & Time for opening of Financial bid	04-06-2026 Morning 11.00 am

More information can be had from the web site : **https ://www.Kppp.karnataka.gov.in** & Any other details required can be obtained from office of the under signed during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Chamarajanagar.

No. : DIPR:CHANAGAR:117:2026-27

The bail rule

The Andrabi ruling reaffirms liberty over the stringent UAPA bar

The idea of justice should never allow for the indefinite imprisonment of someone without trial. However, The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), does so, through its stringent Section 43-D(5), which makes bail near impossible once a court is satisfied, on the prosecution's material, that a prima facie case exists against the accused. But on May 18, in *Syed Iftikhar Andrabi vs National Investigation Agency, Jammu*, the top court delivered a welcome restatement of the principle that bail should be the rule even in cases related to the UAPA. The Bench granted bail to Andrabi, who had spent over five years and nine months in pre-trial custody. The Bench also clarified the legal position where an undertrial has spent years in custody without any realistic prospect of the trial concluding. By reiterating that the right to personal liberty and a speedy trial cannot be subservient to the provision in Section 43-D(5), the judgment disapproved the reasoning in two two-judge Bench rulings, *Gurwinder Singh* (2024) and *Gulfisha Fatima,* decided earlier this year. Both had sought to dilute the principle laid down by a three-judge Bench in *K.A. Najeeb* (2021), which held that the "rigours" of Section 43-D(5) would "melt down" where there was no likelihood of the trial concluding within a reasonable time and the incarceration already undergone was substantial. The Bench also held that the two-judge Benches could not have departed from a binding three-judge ruling in the first place.

In *Gulfisha Fatima*, the Delhi Riots "larger conspiracy" bail decision, the Court denied bail to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam and even foreclosed their right to renew the plea for a full year, despite both having spent over five years in prison. Now in *Andrabi*, the Court has disapproved the *Gulfisha Fatima* Bench's reading that *Najeeb* was confined to its own facts and was not a constitutional limitation on Section 43-D(5). Consequently, Khalid and Imam should have been granted bail on the basis of the *Najeeb* ruling, and not denied it on a narrower reading of it. This is a welcome intervention, provided it is binding in all such cases, even if it is only about the favourable consideration of bail pleas where the accused have been in custody for long periods without trial, and not about a right to bail under the UAPA. Tellingly, a day after *Andrabi*, Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju told another Bench that under the UAPA's statutory bail bar, "the presumption of innocence takes a backseat" which is precisely the position *Andrabi* has now set itself against, in line with constitutional principles.

Measure for measure

Courts should not react defensively to every line of criticism

While it is the courts' prerogative to punish contempt, how well they have separated contemptuous attacks from constitutionally protected criticism, especially by journalists, lawyers, activists, and scholars, has varied widely. This is because the judiciary has not been able to draw consistent lines between fair and exaggerated criticism, politically motivated and defamatory comments, and speech that obstructs justice. The judiciary faces misinformation, political pressure, abusive online discourse, and declining public trust, and the ways in which judges can respond to these attacks are limited. Rhetorical excess in oral observations must also not be confused with legal doctrine. However, recent comments by the Bench have created the appearance of a judiciary increasingly intolerant of external scrutiny. Last week, when hearing a lawyer's petition over not having been elevated to a senior rank, CJI Surya Kant described certain actors in the legal ecosystem as "parasites" and certain young lawyers engaging in RTI-based activism as "cockroaches". While he later said the remarks were directed at persons entering professions with bogus degrees, rather than critics of the judiciary, such language is unbecoming of the CJI. The tenor follows the NCERT textbook controversy, with the Supreme Court focusing its manifest ire on three academics involved in drafting the chapter, effectively excluding them from work on public school curricula without prior hearing. The action evoked concerns about the Court being aggrieved party and arbiter. In the Ali Khan Mahmudabad matter, the Court granted him relief from coercive action but also imposed a gag order. Then, in a display of willingness to discipline the norms of public conduct rather than determine legality, it urged the state to decline to prosecute him as a concession.

When a CJI's comments of this nature appear outside formal contempt proceedings, they render a chilling effect as they amount to institutional condemnation without the safeguards of due process. The comments on using the RTI Act as a basis for activism have a similar effect, beyond the Act being a legitimate instrument. Recently, when a journalist (with a law degree) sought data on complaints against specific judges, the Supreme Court Registry declined the existence of such information. When the journalist produced a Law Ministry disclosure to the contrary, the Registry's legal representative dubbed the inquiry "fishing and roving" – a moving goalpost that was, again, under-concerned with legality while raising questions of the Court arguing its own case. Former CJI D.Y. Chandrachud said that judges are public actors exercising state power and courts should not react defensively to every line of criticism. That attitude improved how the bar, the press, and the academy experienced courts. The recent comments have set the clock back.

Preparing India for a credible digital Census

K. Narayanan Unni

Retired officer from the Indian Statistical Service

The house listing phase of the 2027 Census is now progressing in some States and the work in other States will be taken up soon. The questionnaire for this phase was pre-tested last year. It was reported that the inclusion of questions on caste has delayed the pre-testing of the questionnaire for the population enumeration phase of the Census. Field testing of the schedules is essential to ensure that the concepts and definitions are easily understood by the enumerators and respondents.

The question on caste is being included in the Census for the first time since Independence. The only recent experiences on the issues relating to enumeration of caste are from the surveys in Bihar and Karnataka. I am sure that the Census organisation would have conducted extensive research on the issues and possible solutions, and the pre-testing would help streamline the questions and instructions. The experience of Karnataka and Bihar suggests that, whatever the results, there will be communities that are not ready to accept their numbers.

The population figures from the 2027 Census will be used for the next delimitation of Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly constituencies. Neither the Constitution nor any other law talks about whether the Census has to count people on *de jure* or *de facto* basis. Census on *de jure* basis would mean that people have to be counted at the place where they reside. On the other hand, a *de facto* census would count people at the place where they are present during the Census.

The method used

The Indian Census has been following an extended *de facto* method. People found at their usual/normal place of residence when the enumerator visits the household, as well as members who are absent at that time but have stayed there for at least one night during the Census enumeration period, which normally lasts 20 days, are also enumerated. Also included are visitors who stayed with the household throughout the entire period of Census enumeration period. A household is defined to include all members, even if unrelated, who partake food from a common kitchen. Thus, household help living with household and paying guests should be enumerated there, if they have food from the same kitchen.

This enumeration process implies that the number of voters in an area may not correspond to the population enumerated there. A six-month residence is required for registration as a voter. Further, the voters' list would include those living abroad (non-resident Indians, or NRIs) who chose to register as a voter, whereas they are not part of the census at all. According to the website of the Ministry of External Affairs, there are about 1.58 crore NRIs living abroad. This is more than 1% of the population of the country. If they were all counted in the Census in one State, it would get at least five Lok Sabha seats in the next delimitation.

While the NRIs may be from across the country, some States have proportionately more NRIs than others. Kerala, Gujarat, Punjab, Telangana and Tamil Nadu are known to have a significant number of people living abroad. The Kerala Migration Survey 2023 has estimated that about 22 lakh people from the State are living/working abroad. Not including them in the population of the State would result in the loss of one Lok Sabha seat. Some other States may also be similarly affected.

Some countries collect data on non-residents in the census by enumerating family members, if any, living abroad. This process cannot collect information on those households that have migrated abroad with all their members. Still, it would be a useful starting point and would provide better data for delimitation purposes. Therefore, I suggest pre-testing an appropriately worded question on NRIs.

The problem areas

The next Census is unique because the entire data collection process is planned to be carried out using mobile electronic devices, mostly smartphones. This can save time for the computerisation of data. Consistency checks on responses during data collection can result in improved quality of data and faster processing.

However, one has to allow for a significantly large portion of enumerators who are not savvy with smartphones, and tablets. During the recent Socio Economic and Caste Survey in Karnataka, there were reports of enumerators finding it difficult to handle the equipment for the survey. During the planning for the 2021 Census, it was indicated that enumerators would have the option to collect data using printed paper schedules, which could later be transferred to the electronic database from home. It is highly probable that a family member or a student of the teacher appointed as the enumerator may assist with this work. This could lead to accountability issues and may also compromise the confidentiality of the data. Therefore, a mechanism to detect and control data-entry errors is essential. There will also be an option for respondents to self-enumerate using a computer or smartphone as provided in the house listing phase.

The questions in the population enumeration stage are more complex when compared to those in the house-listing phase. Many of the questions require a thorough understanding of the instructions that even many enumerators find difficult. For example, the explanation of disability in the 2011 Census ran to about six printed pages. Even the seemingly simple question, "Have you worked at any time during the last year?" was accompanied by more than two pages explaining what constitutes 'work'. The follow-up questions on industry, occupation, and related matters are also not easy for most people to understand.

It is too naive to expect that the respondents would read all the instructions before clicking on an item in the drop down menu. The three million plus enumerators may not equally understand the concepts, definitions and the need to ask the questions in an appropriate manner. The self enumeration facility can become worse unless the questions are well worded and explanations are given within the question. It is difficult to achieve this without significant simplification of the concepts and definitions.

Guard against respondent fatigue

Including too many questions in the online schedule in an attempt to obtain better responses can also lead to respondent fatigue, as the form has to be completed for every individual in a household. The possibility of respondents deliberately providing incorrect answers to certain questions in order to avoid follow-up questions cannot be ruled out.

Post-enumeration surveys from past censuses have indicated that distant relatives of the head of the household and unrelated persons, such as domestic helpers living with the household, have higher rates of omission. In a self-enumeration system, the chances of missing such persons are even greater. There is also the possibility of including children who are living in hostels and are therefore not eligible to be enumerated as part of the household. Better structuring of the questions may help ensure more accurate enumeration of such persons. For example, questions such as, "Is the person currently present in the house and, if not, was he or she present at any time after February 9 or likely to return before February 28?" (assuming that the census enumeration takes place during that period as in the past censuses), could be asked for every individual. Similarly, questions such as "Is there any other relative of the head of the household, or any unrelated person such as a servant, helper, or nurse, who shares meals from the same kitchen and lives with the household?" may also be included. While such measures may not ensure completely error-free enumeration, they could help reduce omissions and improve accuracy.

The possibility of fraudulent enumerations in some areas or by some groups using the self enumeration facility cannot be ruled out. The memory of cancelling the Census in some areas in 2001 is still fresh. The organisation needs to be vigilant and steps to prevent such incidents need to be field tested.

It requires accuracy, safeguards, training and careful planning

Drone mania, separating hype from battlefield reality

Manmohan Bahadur

Retired Air Vice Marshal and a former Additional Director General of the Centre for Air Power Studies

Operation Sindoor started with a bang at 1.02 a.m. on May 7, 2025 and the surprise ceasefire at 3.30 p.m. on May 10, 2025, was akin to an "out-of-syllabus" event. On the first anniversary, discussion of the four-day engagement between India and Pakistan has been dominated by events concerning India's long-range strikes on Pakistani terrorist and air force infrastructure; what has been missed out, however, has been the use by both sides of small unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), including loitering kamikaze munitions, colloquially referred to as drones.

Drones have acquired an outsized image for three reasons. First, there is their aura of being relatively 'unstoppable' because their small size makes detection difficult. Second, their relatively low cost *vis-à-vis* a manned aircraft makes them very appealing to number-crunchers. Lastly, the fact that they do not place a combatant in harm's way is an argument that undercuts most of their limitations. In the recent past, the advent of fibre-optic-guided first-person-view drones used by Hezbollah against Israel has further added to the hype.

So, the question whether drones have revolutionised warfare needs a professional analysis *vis-à-vis* the basic tenets of warfare through a prism of doctrine and strategy.

Doctrinal issues

The first question is whether the arrival of drones represents a revolutionary change in warfare or merely an evolution enabled by new technology. Evolutionary developments merely enhance existing capabilities, whereas revolutionary technologies fundamentally reshape warfare by opening up new domains. The advent of the air domain was transformational because it revolutionised warfare. UAVs, however, are merely another weapon system – albeit one with unique advantages – that has evolved within the air domain. Second, since drones fly at low altitudes, some strategists have coined the term "air littoral", suggesting the creation of another domain of warfare unique to drone operations. This is misleading because drones operate within a restricted airspace layer – from the ground up to the coordinating altitude, a pre-designated level that separates fast-moving conventional airpower from slower-moving assets such as helicopters and UAVs. This has forced surface forces to devise methods to protect themselves. In effect, as an essay in the *Air & Space Forces Magazine* argues, drones are not reshaping air warfare but are actually reshaping ground combat. The importance of attainment and maintenance of air superiority through manned systems, therefore, remains undiminished.

Strategic considerations

First, the innovative strike by Ukraine, deep in the interior of Russia through drones inserted in specially constructed containers as part of its Operation Spider's Web, points to a new strategic requirement of possessing good counterintelligence to thwart such long-term strategies in the adversary's planning stage itself. In the event, the strategic air fleet of Russia had lost many costly assets.

Second, such innovative use has shifted the boundaries of kinetic warfare hundreds of kilometres inland. This is akin to a cyberattack that can be launched by anyone, from anywhere in the world, against any target globally. Consequently, a new requirement has emerged to protect assets located deep within a nation's interior on a 24X7 basis. Incidentally, the United States has introduced new laws restricting the purchase of land by foreign entities near military bases and critical infrastructure.

Third, the field of unmanned flight is, in many ways, still developing. The integration of artificial intelligence will bring about an exponential increase in capabilities, leading to fully autonomous operations. Allowing a machine to make life-and-death decisions comes with enormous consequences, and a United Nations committee is currently examining the ethical and moral issues involved.

Counter UAS strategy

In warfare, a new weapon brings in counter-measures and counter counter-measures. As more counter unmanned aerial systems (CUAS) are fielded, the drone threat would be addressable to a great extent.

In Operation Sindoor, waves of individual drones that had been sent into India by Pakistan were neutralised by an integrated CUAS network. On the other hand, drone swarms that are being developed would be an integration of multiple drones to overwhelm air defence systems by sheer numbers. This is the next challenge, and counter-measures under development would basically be directed energy weapons such as the Israeli Iron Beam laser system which ensures rapid engagement at just $2-$3.50 per laser shot instead of the $40,000 to $50,000 per missile of its Iron Dome system.

The Europeans are launching a drone-wall initiative which will use a layered mesh of detection and interception capabilities of drones of European Union member states. The U.S. is planning its Golden Dome system with space based and hypersonic interceptors to address incoming projectiles.

It is good that India too is envisaging a nationwide terrestrial and space-based 'Sudarshan Chakra' to be in place by 2035 for addressing multifarious air defence threats. That is still at least a decade away and, therefore, such a system would require phase-wise operationalisation along with enormous and committed funding. It is imperative that New Delhi finds the monies to support it.

Drone technology is advancing rapidly, alongside equally important counter measures

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bail ruling

The Supreme Court of India's reflection on its earlier bail ruling is a welcome reminder that justice must not be delayed into denial.

When trials stretch endlessly, liberty becomes collateral damage. Bail is not mercy but a constitutional right tied to freedom and fairness. The Court's acknowledgment that prolonged incarceration violates the spirit of justice should guide all future decisions under stringent laws.

Upholding personal liberty while ensuring accountability is the true test of judicial balance. India's great democracy depends on courts that correct themselves and reaffirm that the rule of law protects citizens, not just prosecutes them.

K. Chidanand Kumar,
Bengaluru

Rationality in politics

The recent and stunning electoral success of the fledgling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) party in Tamil Nadu has paved the way for several youngsters to become Members of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

This will naturally encourage more young people to view politics as a career option, which is healthy for a democracy. However, what message does a TVK MLA send to youngsters when she claims to hold an "honorary doctorate in astrology" and conducts meetings with Corporation officials, who reportedly "voluntarily" met her at her "astrology consultancy office" (Tamil Nadu page, "TVK MLA criticised for meeting officials in 'astrology office'", May 20)? Will not youngsters influenced by her political success begin to think that a degree in astrology is a desirable qualification for securing an MLA ticket from the TVK, and start pursuing such qualifications?

As a political party seeking to govern Tamil Nadu, the TVK cannot shy away from its responsibility to curb pseudoscientific practices, which have the potential to erode rational thinking, in the public sphere.

A. Venkatasubramanian,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Analysing India's budgets for justice

Valay Singh
Lead and Co-founder, India Justice Report

The lack of any targeted funding to improve justice outcomes in the Union Budget 2026-27 shows that India continues to overlook the importance of rule of law to economic growth. To understand government priorities within competing constraints of financial resources, one just has to follow the money.

A recent study of the budgets for the justice system, which includes the police, prisons, judiciary and legal aid departments, has found that across 11 high-GDP States in India such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh, there has been a cumulative spend of ₹2 lakh crore towards justice in 2024-25. On average, this accounted for 4.6% of State budgets. In comparison, the Council of Europe's European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice study, which excluded police services, and was based on information from 2022, shows that Europe only spends about 0.31% of its GDP on justice. Nationally, India spends about ₹450 per capita on the judiciary, ₹9 on free legal aid, ₹150 on prisons and about ₹1,500 on the police.

The India Justice Report noted that across India's 11 wealthiest and most populous States, policing accounted for over 80% of all justice-related allocations with a spend of ₹1,616 per capita. Such a distribution raises questions about the state's priorities in delivering justice.

An overview of the system

That the lion's share of justice expenditure goes to policing is explainable. Policing is an undeniable core function of any State; however the disaggregation of that spending reveals a particular orientation. Most of the funds go towards salaries, and administrative firefighting. Funds for infrastructure, particularly vehicles, computers and other equipment, come next, leaving quite little for areas that affect the quality of policing. For instance, less than 1.5% of the police budget is allocated to training, and roughly only 1% to forensics.

Judiciary budgets accounted for less than 1% of the total State budgets, despite unprecedented caseloads. Across the 11 States, there are 3,500 district courts, which handle seven times the cases of the High Courts and receive only three times the budget. Budgetary allocations are directed towards infrastructure, the salaries of judges and support staff, and training. However, training accounts for just about 1% of judiciary budgets. Based on the population projections of March 2025, the actual strength of the Bench stands at 15 judges per 10 lakh population, which is well below the 1987 Law Commission recommendation of 50 judges per 10 lakh population. Analysis shows that for every judge position in the district judiciary, at least 5-9 other positions are needed for secretarial and clerical functions. While the financial cost of adding judges is not insignificant, India's economic growth should not be stalled because of severely inadequate judge strength.

Prisons in these 11 States hold 60% of India's prisoners. The occupancy in these States, which stood at 137% in 2023, was higher than the national average (131%). Prisons accounted for only 0.14% of State budgets. On average, of every ₹100 spent on prisons, only ₹0.23 was spent on training. The Justice Report also noted that prisons across India functioned with at least 30% vacancies.

Legal aid received the least amount of funds. Given that legal aid is the primary mechanism through which low-income and marginalised individuals access the justice system, this underinvestment has consequences: limited reach, inadequate representation, and delays in securing legal assistance for those who need it the most.

> When policing takes the majority of funding for justice systems, it brings to light an architecture which is structured primarily around enforcement and surveillance

Systemic priorities

When policing takes the majority of funding for justice systems, it brings to light an architecture which is structured primarily around enforcement and surveillance, not access, adjudication, or rehabilitation. The priority appears to be maintaining law-and-order capacity rather than promoting fairness, and strengthening the broader ecosystem of justice delivery.

A justice system is only as strong as its weakest component. The current distribution of funds suggests that those components most essential for protection and equal access – legal aid, judicial and prison staff training, and independent oversight bodies – are the least supported. An overemphasis on just one component comes at a cost; a crisis in the system which needs to be managed by the other pillars.

The National Crime Record Bureau's Crime in India 2024 report shows us that 26 lakh people were arrested, a majority of whom belonged to communities which were socially and economically marginalised. This is indicative of a system that is highly efficient at generating cases, arrests, and detentions, but inefficient at supplying remedies.

Another clear example is the treatment given to State Human Rights Commissions (SHRC). Despite their clear statutory mandate to investigate rights violations, review safeguards and provide independent oversight, SHRCs in the highest-GDP States receive a mere 80 paisa per capita. Several operate with over 40% vacancies, and many struggle to perform even basic functions.

This does not imply that policing should be deprioritised, but it does paint a clear picture of an imbalance.

A recalibration of justice budget priorities, one that is firmly grounded in evidence and aligned with what the Constitution mandates would move India closer to a system that is accessible, and people-centred; capable of meeting the needs of all.

Boosting climate action in Tamil Nadu

The new government should prioritise and accelerate climate action in the State

STATE OF PLAY

Arivudai Nambi Appadurai

A new political mandate in Tamil Nadu arrives at a time when climate risks are no longer distant projections but lived realities. From rising heat to coastal vulnerability, the urgency to embed climate action into governance has never been clearer. This political transition offers an opportunity to accelerate the State's climate action response.

Tamil Nadu is among the most climate vulnerable States of India. Increasing sea-levels, frequent cyclones, heatwaves, water stress and rapid urbanisation exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, making the transition of climate action into policy and implementation an absolute necessity.

In the past, Tamil Nadu has actioned several policies to manage climate risks. The government has introduced various programmes such as the Climate Change mission, Coastal Restoration Mission and the Green Tamil Nadu mission, in addition to the creation of institutions such as the Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company (TNGCC) and the Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation. Further, the Governing Council on Climate Change, a high-level body with experts headed by the CM, is a first-of-its-kind State-level body designed to provide strategic policy direction, and accelerate climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

Some of the key initiatives under the Climate Change Mission have been the establishment of climate resilient villages as a pilot in 11 districts; district-level decarbonisation plans; carbon-neutral hubs; bio-fencing; climate-resilient

green temples; green schools; and the Green Fellows programme. The role of the State Planning Commission cannot be ignored here for it was instrumental in conceiving many targeted studies across a spectrum of priority areas, which fed into both policy and implementation processes.

On the financial side, Tamil Nadu pioneered the launch of the first State-owned Green Climate Fund with a corpus of ₹1,000 crore to support clean energy transition, mobility and water security. Besides this, the State has been successful in acquiring significant funding from the World Bank and other multilateral agencies to execute the TN-Shore Mission focused on building coastal resilience.

The next step

All these measures have placed Tamil Nadu as a forerunner in climate action. Furthermore, institutions such as the TNGCC can be leveraged to attract private capital to achieve climate action goals. It could translate ambition into opportunity at scale and create the next generation of industrial winners.

The new regime should not only look to sustain current initiatives to shape better outcomes but also be innovative in putting together forward-looking policies. It must also ensure inclusive decision making in order to create an enabling environment.

As Tamil Nadu is one of the most industrialised States, the scope for emission mitigation programmes is wide and pertinent. The new government's environment mandate has an organic link with the past government's climate actions and ambitions. It aspires to come out with a dedicated climate budget plan to the tune of ₹3,000 crore, achieve 100% renewable energy through the Vetri Solar Mission, install 20,000 EV fast charging stations by 2031, and electrify 5,000 State-owned buses.

And while mitigation-related priorities are important, the new government should not lose sight of adaptation actions, which include measures to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of the poor and the vulnerable. A separate framework and plan of action for adaptation strategies would not only help the State's climate-resilient policies but also strengthen its contributions to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and other existing international mechanisms.

Further, investments in research, training, and capacity-building would enhance the value of climate action. The new government should strive to mobilise funds, both domestically and internationally.

Tamil Nadu enters its next phase of governance at a time when the climate action platform is well-positioned for accelerated implementation. The new government guided by its grand social agenda must ensure that every rupee spent on development is also an investment towards a cleaner and resilient future.

Arivudai Nambi Appadurai is Director of the Climate Resilience Practice at the World Resources Institute India. Views expressed are personal.

Patterns from Gujarat's 2026 local body elections

Of the 9,986 seats in the State's local body polls, 732 were won by the BJP without a single opposing candidate

DATA POINT

Pradeep Kumar Dontha
Vignesh Karthik K.R.

In April 2026, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) swept Gujarat's local body elections across 9,986 seats spanning four administrative tiers: Municipal Corporations (MCs), Nagarpalikas (NPs), District Panchayats (DPs), and Taluka Panchayats (TPs), winning 75.03% of all seats. The BJP's seat share falls in a near-perfect gradient from 89.75% in MCs to 70.29% in DPs **(Table 1)**, indicating that while its dominance is real, the terrain becomes more contested as governance gets closer to the village level.

This urban-rural gradient holds across both seat shares and vote shares **(Chart 1)**. In 2015, the Congress led the BJP in both DPs and TPs. Rural Gujarat has since been systematically realigned, but the realignment is incomplete. The residual resistance at the Taluka tier is Congress's most viable terrain for recovery.

The three-cycle trend is useful evidence of structural, not cyclical, consolidation **(Chart 2)**. The BJP improved its overall vote share across all administrative tiers by 7.6 percentage points, from 46.69% in 2015 to 54.28% in 2026.

The Congress, meanwhile, shed 14 percentage points in its overall vote share, from 44.77% in 2015 to 30.76% in 2026. Importantly, it secured fewer absolute votes in 2026 (1.8 crore) than in 2015 (2.3 crore) despite a substantially larger electorate, a clear sign of the party losing ground. The vote share of the Others category, including independents and minor parties, has more than halved from 8.55% to 3.98%, as the political space has consolidated into a three-party frame after the entry of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

The AAP secured a 6.21% vote share in its first local body elections in Gujarat in 2021 and increased it to 10.98% in 2026, adding 29 lakh votes over that period. The correlation data is unambiguous: the AAP's vote share correlates at +0.98 with the BJP's growth and at -0.96 with the Congress's decline across tiers, showing that it is cannibalising the Opposition and not eroding the BJP's voter base.

The BJP won 94.87% of Scheduled Caste (SC) (General) seats at the DP tier and performed consistently above 79% in SC categories across all tiers. The historic KHAM (Kshatriya, Harijan, Adivasi, Muslim) coalition's SC pillar, built by former Congress Chief Minister Madhav Singh Solanki in the 1980s, is structurally absent from these results. The Congress's most durable electoral asset has effectively dissolved at the grassroots. Its SC pillar has migrated to the BJP, and its Scheduled Tribes (ST) pillar is now split three ways.

In TPs, the BJP won 65.59% of ST (General) and 61.72% of ST (Women) seats – its weakest numbers at any tier-and-category combination. In the north Gujarat tribal corridor, the BJP's ST (General) win share dropped to 52.1% and ST (Women) to 55.3%. The Kutch showed a similar dip, with the ST (General) win share at 57.1%. The tribal belt, where the BJP, the Congress, and the AAP are in a triangular contest, remains the only competitive terrain in Gujarat's local body elections.

The most alarming finding in the 2026 data is the disappearance of contest itself. Of the 9,986 seats, 732 (7.3%) were won without a single opposing candidate. The BJP claimed 717 of these **(Table 2)**, of which 435 were in women-reserved categories. The historical escalation is stark: 37 uncontested seats in 2015, 237 in 2021, and 732 in 2026. Whether this reflects the Opposition's inability to recruit women candidates, or a judgment that reserved seats are unwinnable, the consequence is the same: in over 700 pockets, the democratic contest has effectively ceased.

Collapsing contests

The data were sourced from Gujarat State Election Commission. Pradeep Kumar Dontha is a political consultant. Vignesh Karthik K.R. is a postdoctoral research affiliate of Indian politics at KITLV-Leiden

CHART 1: The seat shares and vote shares of the major parties across administrative tiers

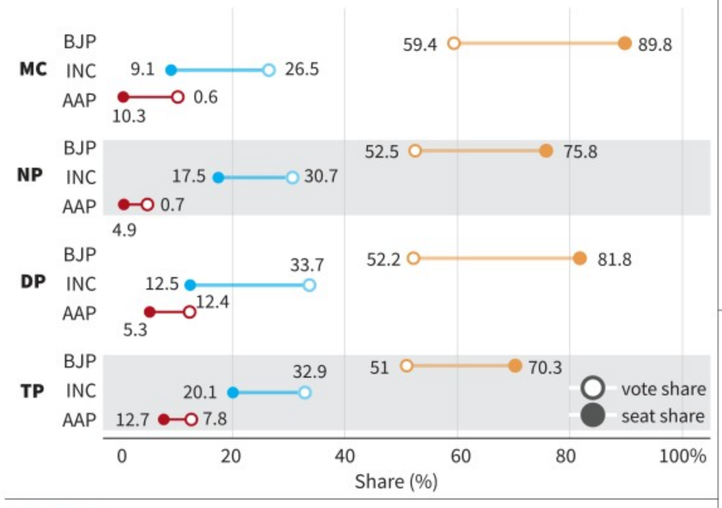


CHART 2: The party-wise change in vote shares over the past three local body elections (in %)

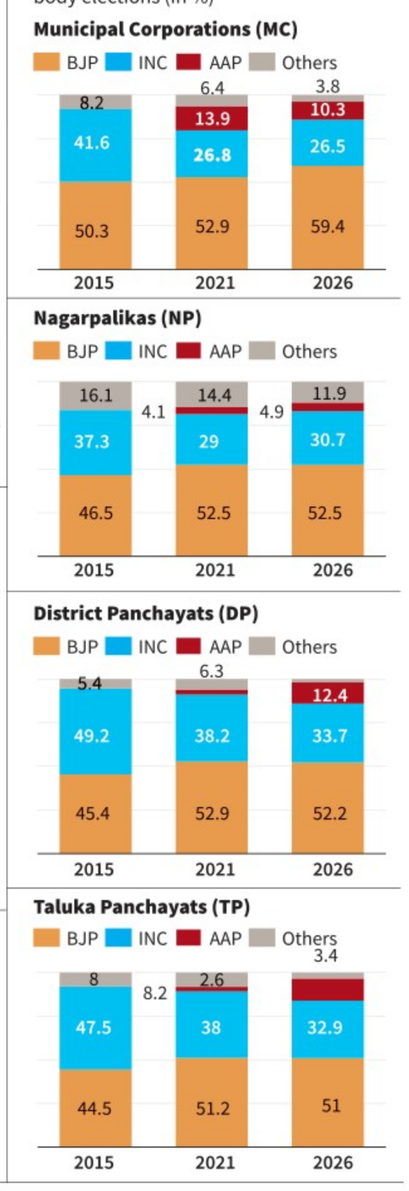


TABLE 1: The seat share of the BJP across different reservation categories and administrative tiers

60–70% 70–80% 80–90% ≥ 90%

G: General, W: Women, UR: Unreserved

	MC	NP	DP	TP
UR (G)	89.6	73.9	82.5	70.4
UR (W)	91.4	76.6	86.3	73.5
BC (G)	90.8	74.6	78.4	72.7
BC (W)	87.8	75.4	87.4	73.3
SC (G)	79.1	82.7	94.9	76.4
SC (W)	87.9	82.3	94.3	74.1
ST (G)	89.5	74.2	73.9	65.6
ST (W)	100.0	80.0	70.5	61.7

TABLE 2: Seats won without any contest (unopposed) in the local body elections

Tier	(Col A) Seats won unopposed	(Col B) Seats won by BJP among Col A	(Col C) Seats reserved for women among Col B
MCs	43	43	33
NPs	385	370	232
DPs	52	52	27
TPs	252	252	143
Total	732	717	435

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 21, 1976

Neyveli success in transplanting trees

When the mining operations in Neyveli were extended in 1968, the Neyveli Lignite Corporation authorities had to shift and re-lay an orchard with 924 plants like grafted mango, lemon, acid lime, jack, coconut, arecanut and grape most of them procured from the Government Model Orchard-cum-Nursery at Timmapuram in Salem district. At the time of shifting most of the trees had established themselves well with a trunk base ranging from 9 inches to one foot and were just then in yield.

Test excavations around the trees up to their branch spread revealed they had put forth network of roots up to 3 and 4 feet from the base. For transport and transplantations of trees on a large scale cranes and tractor trailers were used. No watering was done around the trees to be lifted to their new location to keep the soil harder and drier for better shape. The roots of the trees under normal conditions were found to travel underground to the extent of the branches over the ground. It was noticed during the transplantation operations that if the trunk of a tree was 12" in diameter, the ball of earth would be between 4 and 5 feet diameter. In all the cases trenches were cut around the trees beyond the diametrical length the trenches being sufficiently broad for tying and lifting plants operations inside the pits. The ball of earth was sectioned off in such a way as to taper down underground where root fibers were thinner. Wherever the soil was found sandy and likely to crumble, the ball of earth was wrapped with sack or tarpaulin bits and then securely tied. Special slings were used around the ball of earth before lifting plants with cranes.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 21, 1926

Reform of Afghan coinage

Simla, May 20: Recently the whole of the Afghan coinage and system of weights and measures have undergone a change. The Metric system has been adopted. The present rupee is called the *Afghani*, as opposed to the old *Kabuli*, and is declared to be of slightly higher value. 10 *Afghanis* being equal to 11 *Kabulis*. The *Afghani* is divided into 100 *Pals*. Only 2,5, and 10 *Pal* coins are issued. 20 *Afghanis* go to make one *Amani*, which is the standard gold coin. The coins are well minted.

From Page One

Steel, cement lift core sector growth to 1.7%

As a likely consequence of this contraction in domestic natural gas production and rising prices of gas imports, the fertilizer sector contracted 8.6% in April. This was a much better performance than the contraction of nearly 25% in March.

The refinery products also fell back into a contraction in April, of 0.5%, compared to a growth of 0.1% in March. Notably, the contraction this April is over a contraction of 4.5% seen last April.

The electricity sector grew at a three-month high of 4.1% in April, up from the revised growth of 0.8% in March. The preliminary figure for March had reported a contraction of 0.5% for the sector.

Coal output contracted 8.7% in April, the second consecutive month of contraction.

India, Italy seal defence agreement, elevate ties

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni plant a mulberry tree in Rome. AP

In a significant push, ahead of the India-Africa Forum Summit-4, the two sides said they have agreed work on selected projects trilaterally in partners in Africa.

In this regard, the Joint Statement said, "Recognising the strategic priority both countries attach to Africa, the two Prime Ministers agreed to work together in trilateral initiatives with African partners in areas such as Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), agriculture, education, healthcare, artificial intelligence, connectivity and infrastructure and renewable energy in line with India's development partnership in Africa and Italy's Mattei Plan."

Mr. Modi pointed out that more than 800 Italian companies are operating in India and are contributing to the economic growth story of India. He acknowledged the support that India has received from Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni for the conclusion of the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement. Mr. Modi called on Italy's President Sergio Mattarella at the end of official exchanges in Rome.

Agricola Medal

Mr. Modi was conferred the Agricola Medal for 2026 by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, at the FAO headquarters in Rome. A press release from the Ministry said Mr. Modi received the award from Dr. Qu Dongyu, Director-General of FAO. "Prime Minister recalled that as a founding member of FAO, India was privileged to work with the organisation to foster global food security, sustainable agriculture and a hunger-free world," said the Ministry in the press release.

Mr. Modi also thanked the FAO for collaborating with India to "promote healthy food choices through the celebration of the International Year of Millets".

No new hydel projects can come up in upper Ganga, govt. tells SC

Three Union Ministries submit common affidavit in top court saying the government is not in favour of permitting any new projects in the Alaknanda and Bhagirathi river basins in Uttarakhand, apart from the seven already commissioned

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Tapovan hydel power project was damaged during the 2021 Rishiganga flood in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand. PTI

In a significant submission to the Supreme Court, the Union government has said that no new hydroelectric projects should be permitted in the upper reaches of the Ganga in Uttarakhand, with the Ministries of Environment, Jal Shakti and Power presenting a single, restrictive position to the court.

In a common affidavit filed on May 19, the three Ministries stated that apart from seven hydroelectric projects already commissioned or substantially built, the government was "not in favour of permitting any other new hydroelectric project in the Alaknanda and Bhagirathi river basins in the upper reaches of the River Ganga in the State of Uttarakhand". The hardened stand is notable for the Power Ministry's concurrence; as recently as November 2024, it had argued for as many as eight projects.

The seven projects cleared will have a total capacity of just over 2,150 MW and include some of the State's largest projects. They are the 1,000 MW Tehri pumped-storage project on the Bhagirathi; the 520 MW Tapovan Vishnugad on the Dhauliganga, damaged by the February 2021 Rishiganga flood; the 444 MW Vishnugad Pipalkoti on the Alaknanda; the 99 MW Singoli Bhatwari and 76 MW Phata Byung on the Mandakini; and two small projects, the Madhmaheshwar and Kailganga-II. Four have already been commissioned while the remaining three are 74% to 80% complete.

The government's rationale for letting these continue is that they have absorbed substantial public and private investment, none falls within the Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone, and none was flagged by expert bodies. Halting them now would strand sunk costs without commensurate environmental gain, it said.

In August 2024, the Supreme Court constituted the committee chaired by Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan, with the three Secretaries (Environment, Jal Shakti and Power Ministries) and Uttarakhand's Chief Secretary as members, directing it to give due consideration to Expert Body-II's findings and place the Centre's reasoning on record. The committee – whose recommendations have only become public with the affidavit – narrowed 21 projects under consideration to five: Bowala Nandprayag, Devsari, Bhyundar Ganga, Jhalakoti and Urgam-II.

Seismic fragility

The Centre has now declined to accept even those five, citing the cumulative impact of "bumper-to-bumper" dams, seismic fragility, and a string of disasters, including the 2013 cloudburst and the Dharali flash flood of August 2025.

"This is a wise and welcome step from the government that came out after more than a decade of wait," Mallika Bhanot, an environmental activist and part of the Bhagirathi Eco-sensitive Zone monitoring committee, told *The Hindu*.

The case originates in the Kedarnath floods of June 2013, which killed at least 5,000 people. Halting hydel development in the State, the court directed the Environment Ministry to examine the role such projects played in amplifying the disaster. A 17-member committee led by environmentalist Ravi Chopra – Expert Body-I – concluded in 2014 that 23 of 24 projects examined would have severe impact on the ecology of the Alaknanda and Bhagirathi basins. A second panel under Vinod Tare of IIT-Kanpur, examining six developers' projects, too found they "may not be taken up" in their present form.

The Environment Ministry then set up Expert Body-II under B.P. Das, which in March 2020 took a markedly more permissive view, recommending 26 for implementation with design modifications to others. The Centre, however, only ever accepted seven.

Cong. slams Centre over economic distress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday led a sharp attack on the Narendra Modi government over inflation, unemployment and weakening economic indicators, accusing it of pursuing publicity while the economy faced mounting distress.

"Modi ji wants the public to enjoy the 'melody' of speeches while surviving the 'misery' of his government's loot," he said, using a poster carrying the slogan, "Looting is MELODY for BJP, but MISERY for citizens!"

The Congress attack came during Mr. Modi's foreign visit, after Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni shared a post of him gifting her 'Melody' toffees. The criticism was amplified at a press conference by Congress media and publicity department chairman Pawan Khera, who rejected the government's contention that global geopolitical tensions were primarily responsible for economic pressures.

Presenting figures on fuel inflation, Mr.Khera said petrol prices had risen by 38% and diesel by 62% over the past 12 years.

Naga body in Manipur petitions PM, seeking release of six Naga captives

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Women protest demanding the release of six missing Naga civilians, at Kanglatongbi village, in Imphal West district of Manipur. PTI

An apex body of Naga women in Manipur petitioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, seeking the Centre's intervention for the release of six Naga men allegedly held hostage by Kuki groups. They also demanded the abrogation of agreements signed with several Kuki extremist groups.

The appeal of the Naga Women's Union (NWU) followed a memorandum from the Kuki-Zo Council, an apex body of Kuki-Zo communities in the State, to the Prime Minister on May 18. The Kuki body had sought the safe release of 14 Kuki men, including three minor students, allegedly held hostage by Naga groups.

The latest hostage crisis hit Manipur after unidentified gunmen ambushed and killed three Thadou church leaders on May 13. A section of Thadous claims it is a tribe independent of the Kuki tag.

Six hostages remain

On Wednesday, hundreds of NWU members staged protests in the Naga-majority hill districts – Chandel, Kamjong, Noney, Senapati, Tamenglong, and Ukhrul – to demand the release of the six Naga captives and the abrogation of the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreements.

In the memorandum to the Prime Minister, the NWU said Kuki extremists had abducted 20 Naga civilians, 14 of whom were released in exchange for an equal number of Kuki hostages on May 15. The union identified the remaining abductees as church leaders.

The NWU also demanded that the Centre arrest and prosecute all those involved in the abductions, deliver justice to Wilson Thanga, a Naga villager killed in Noney district on May 13, and ensure the welfare, rehabilitation, and protection of the women who had been released.

Officials said the security forces were continuing their search-and-rescue operations.

A Tangkhul Naga delegation from Ukhrul met CM Yumnam Khemchand Singh, highlighting that repeated attacks on the vulnerable village of Sinakeithei have created fear, insecurity, and distress among residents.

SC 'inclined' to grant bail to accused in 2020 Delhi riots case

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday indicated that it was *prima facie* inclined to grant bail to 2020 Delhi riots accused Tasleem Ahmed and Abdul Khalid Saifi, while adjourning the hearing at the request of the Delhi Police.

Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju, appearing for the Delhi Police, sought a short adjournment before a Bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and P.B. Varale.

"*Prima facie*, we are with you for the time being, subject to what he [Mr. Raju] says," the Bench orally remarked while hearing the bail pleas filed by the two accused challenging the September 2, 2025 order of the Delhi High Court, refusing them bail in the larger conspiracy case linked to the riots.

Senior advocate Rebecca John, appearing for Mr. Saifi, submitted that her client's case was squarely covered by the Bench's January 5, 2026 ruling. It had then denied bail to Jawaharlal Nehru University scholars Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam while granting relief to five other co-accused by distinguishing their alleged roles.

Earlier, Mr. Raju had argued that "conflicting" views expressed by different Supreme Court Benches on the grant of bail under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA), warranted consideration by a larger Bench.

Rajnath holds wide-ranging defence talks in South Korea, pushes strategic cooperation

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and South Korean Minister of National Defence Ahn Gyu-back exchange agreements on promoting defence cyber cooperation, in Seoul on Wednesday. ANI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held comprehensive bilateral discussions with South Korea Minister of National Defence Ahn Gyu-back in Seoul on Wednesday, with both sides agreeing to expand defence cooperation across industry, maritime security, emerging technologies, logistics, and military exchanges.

According to the Defence Ministry, the two Ministers reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral defence ties and reaffirmed their commitment to a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific, highlighting the growing convergence between India's Act East Policy and South Korea's regional strategic vision. During the discussions, several memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed to deepen cooperation in defence, cybersecurity, and training exchanges between India's National Defence College and the Korea National Defence University, and United Nations peacekeeping operations, further broadening the scope of the India-South Korea strategic partnership.

Two significant MoUs have been signed on future-oriented projects on self-propelled air defence systems, directed energy weapon systems. Both projects have a strong 'Make in India' focus.

The Hindu Maharashtra Infrastructure Conclave to be held in Mumbai tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

As Maharashtra enters a defining phase of redevelopment and infrastructure transformation, discussions around urban expansion, regional connectivity, maritime growth, and investment-led development have become important.

Against this backdrop, The Hindu Group is organising the Maharashtra Infrastructure Conclave, 2026, a high-impact platform bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, urban planners, infrastructure experts, investors, and developers to discuss the opportunities and challenges shaping Maharashtra's next growth story.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. on May 22 at Taj President, Mumbai.

Presented by the Adani Group, the conclave aims to foster dialogue on how infrastructure can support sustainable growth, improve urban living, and position Maharashtra as a global investment destination.

Key dignitaries include Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Shrikant Shinde, MP, Cabinet Minister Girish Mahajan, Cabinet Minister Ashish Shelar, Minister Nitesh Rane, and BMC Municipal Commissioner Ashwini Bhide. Mr. Eknath Shinde will deliver a special address on the "Mumbai to Surajgaad" vision.

In a session on navigating the financial capital, Ms. Bhide will be in conversation with Vinaya Deshpande, Chief of Bureau, Maharashtra, *The Hindu*. A panel discussion titled "Mumbai and beyond" will see deliberations on the plans for an expanding metropolis. It will bring together IAS officers Sanjay Mukherjee and Mahendra Kalyankar, Mr. Shrikant Shinde, and Mr. Ashish Shelar in conversation with Pankaj Joshi, Principal Director, Urban Centre, Mumbai.

Another discussion on "Kumbh: The Spiritual Boost for a Regional Economy" will feature Mr. Mahajan, Manisha Khatri (Municipal Commissioner, Nashik Municipal Corporation), Shekhar Singh (Commissioner, Nashik Kumbh Mela), and Lubaina Rangwala (Program Head, Urban Development, WRI India), and will be moderated by Lalatendu Mishra, Senior Deputy Editor, *The Hindu*. Mr. Rane will speak with Ms. Deshpande on opportunities in the maritime sector. The Australian Consul-General, Paul Murphy, and Finland's Consul-General, Erik Hallstrom, will join her for a discussion on global perspectives on Mumbai.

The conclave will feature four special addresses. Kaustubh Dhavse, Chief Adviser to the Chief Minister, will speak on Maharashtra's investment outlook. Captain Jagmohan (retd), CMD of Mazgaon Dock, will address industry expectations for maritime development, and M. Jamshed, Distinguished Fellow at CRF, will speak on the last decade of growth in the rail, road, and shipping sectors.

Associate sponsors of the event are World Trade Center, Mumbai, Bank of Maharashtra, NBCC, and Bank of India, with Times Now the telecast partner.

Pradhan takes up safeguards for NEET(UG) re-test in June

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday held review meetings with Central security and intelligence agencies to address vulnerabilities ahead of the NEET (UG) 2026 re-test, cancelled earlier this month over a paper leak.

He also met Meta, Google, and Telegram representatives, raising serious concerns over spread of misinformation related to competitive exams that include fake paper leak claims and unverified information that triggers panic among students and parents. He said that "safeguarding students from misleading narratives and maintaining public confidence in the examination process remains the government's a top priority.

Marco Rubio to begin India visit on May 23; discuss trade, energy

Meeting comes amid U.S.-Iran war that has hurt India's energy security; trade and defence cooperation also on the agenda of his first India trip

Kallol Bhattacherjee
Shiv Sahay Singh
NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, right, with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Washington. FILE PHOTO

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio will pay his first visit to India between May 23 and 26, the U.S. State Department said on Friday.

The visit will be closely watched as it comes against the backdrop of the U.S.'s continued engagement in hostilities in the Persian Gulf region, which have had consequences for India's energy security.

Mr. Rubio's visit is part of a tightly packed Indian diplomatic calendar for this summer and monsoon season, with New Delhi expected to host meetings of BRICS, the Quad, the India-Africa Forum Summit, and other platforms.

"As America gets ready to celebrate our 250th birthday, we look forward to doing it with our partners in India. India is the world's largest democracy and we are the world's oldest. So, we look forward to celebrating it together," Mr. Rubio said, in a video message that was shared on X by the U.S. Embassy in India. He will visit Kolkata, Agra, Jaipur, and New Delhi.

"The Secretary will discuss energy security, trade, and defense cooperation during meetings with senior Indian officials," U.S. State Department spokesperson Thomas Pigott said.

The visit is connected to unfolding regional and global diplomatic dialogues, coming days after India hosted the BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting.

The State Department's announcement did not mention the Quad Foreign Ministers meeting that is also expected to be held in the near future.

'No double standard, we condemn all nations that violate international law'

Norway has been clear that the U.S.-Israel invasion in Iran is not in line with law, says Norwegian Foreign Minister; he says that his country will prefer that India reduces its intake of Russian oil, but understands its concerns on energy security

INTERVIEW

Espen Barth Eide

Suhasini Haidar
OSLO

India and Norway must engage more to ensure they aren't "overdependent" on any one global power, says Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide, pitching for more trade, technology, and cooperation on renewable energy. Edited excerpts:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke of a golden era for ties, but Norway-India bilateral trade in goods and services is still just about $2 billion. Did your discussions focus on how to take this forward?

India is becoming really a centre of many technologies and many industries and important for us. I would also say India should be aware of the difference between interdependence, which is good, and overdependence, which is not so good. We cannot be dependent on a single source of resource or technology, and other countries then need to strengthen their bonds, and this is what we are doing together.

The Green Strategic Partnership, announced between India and Norway, spoke about carbon credits, about renewable transitions, but we are also seeing a focus on fossil fuel transfers, LNG, and crude oil from Norway to India. Is this also driven by an idea of trying to wean India off Russian oil?

Of course, we would be happy if India was less dependent on Russian oil, because that would be good for the situation in Ukraine. But I think, the main point here is that we want to be partners in the energy transition, which doesn't [happen quickly]. We know that India is severely affected by the closure of the Hormuz Strait, because much of its cooking gas has been imported from Qatar and other countries on the inside of the Strait, so we take that very seriously.

The U.S. has overnight renewed for a third month its general open licence for sanctions waivers on Russian oil. How do you react to that development?

We [U.S. and Europe] imposed these sanctions together. We thought it was important to demonstrate to Russia that we cannot condone, we cannot tolerate this grave violation of international law, because what Russia has done in Ukraine is to violate rule number one, basically, which is that they shall not intervene and occupy other countries. So that needs to have some kind of consequences, and we would prefer that the sanctions were still in place. I understand that India has a different relationship with Russia. What I would like to see is that India uses its good relations to send a message that the rule of law is good for all of us.

Given the U.S. has broken international law repeatedly over the last year, whether it was in Venezuela, in its claims over Greenland, Iceland, or the U.S.-Israel strikes on Iran that set off the war that we are all suffering the effects of. Do you think Europe has a double standard?

Well, speaking for Norway, we have been crystal clear that the [U.S.-Israel] invasion in Iran was not in line with international law, neither was the [U.S.] operation in Venezuela. We were also very clear in the case of Greenland that there is no way that a country can just say I claim the territory of another state. I am one of the first to say that we must not have double standards. I would agree that some European countries had double standards, particularly when it came to the reaction to the massive Israeli campaign, killing tens of thousands of Palestinians in Gaza, but Norway has always been very consistent. We have to speak up because international law should apply to all people, all places, all the time.

Rahul's remarks against PM reflect his 'anarchic mindset', says BJP chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Nitin Nabin

Bharatiya Janata Party president Nitin Nabin on Wednesday said that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's "traitor" remark on Prime Minister Narendra Modi reflected his "anarchic mindset".

"You have insulted not merely Narendra Modi*ji*, but the 140 crore citizens of this country. It seems you have not learnt any lessons from the past, as every time you have insulted Narendra Modi*ji*, people have responded by adorning him with the garland of victory. You will definitely have to pay a heavy price for such an unfortunate remark," Mr. Nabin said in a video message.

Mr. Nabin's response came after Mr. Gandhi, at an event in his Rae Bareli Lok Sabha constituency in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday, called Mr. Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah "traitors", accusing them of attacking the Constitution.

Stating that such a comment served only to vitiate the country's political atmosphere, the BJP chief said: "His [Mr. Gandhi's] continuous electoral defeats and the resulting frustration are now becoming evident in his temperament and conduct, and that desperation and despondency are reflected in his statements."

Modi, Shah are traitors who are attacking Constitution, says Rahul at Rae Bareli meet

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Ajay Rai at a meeting in Rae Bareli on Wednesday. PTI

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), describing them as "traitors". Mr. Gandhi alleged that they were attacking the Constitution, snatching reservation of the marginalised sections and working to support some industrialists.

"I will never apologise and I will say it again: Narendra Modi-Amit Shah are traitors because they have attacked the Constitution. Listen carefully... I am not afraid of RSS people," Mr. Gandhi said at the Bahujan Swabhiman Sammelan in Rae Bareli.

Mr. Gandhi reiterated that a massive economic crisis was around the corner. "The times ahead are going to be very difficult. Inflation will be at a level the country has never seen before. Prices of everything will rise, farmers will be distressed because there will be a shortage of fertilizers. Oil and gas supplies will be disrupted. But this economic storm will not affect Adani-Ambani and Narendra Modi, because they will remain sitting in their palaces. If anyone will be hit by this economic storm, it will be the common people of the country," he said.

He also hit out at the Prime Minister over a visit to Italy. "Modi gave a speech in India and said the global situation is vulnerable. He then flew to Italy in his expensive plane, carrying a Melody candy in his pocket for Meloni [Italian Prime Minister]," said the Congress leader.

Left only alternative to BJP's politics; CPI will highlight livelihood crisis, says Raja

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

D. Raja

The Left is the only ideological alternative to the aggressive right-wing politics of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Communist Party of India (CPI) general secretary D. Raja told *The Hindu*.

Against the backdrop of electoral setbacks in Kerala and the party's failure to revive in West Bengal, the CPI has planned a nationwide political campaign from August 6 to 15, culminating in a public meeting in Delhi in September.

The CPI was working to strengthen its rank and file ahead of the next round of general election so that it was not forced to negotiate from a position of weakness, Mr. Raja said.

Since 2014, Mr. Raja said, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)-supported BJP government at the Centre had been pushing for a unidimensional India, ignoring the country's diversity.

'Needs to reconnect'

"The Left may have lost electoral battles and its presence in Parliament and Assemblies may have shrunk, but ideologically the Left is the only powerful alternative to BJP's right-wing politics," he said.

This was why the BJP continued to target the Left, Mr. Raja added, pointing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks after the recent election results on May 4, when Mr. Modi referred to Left leaders as "urban Naxals".

Mr. Raja said the Left needed to "reconnect, revive and re-emerge" as a force to lead struggles linked to everyday issues.

"From August 5 to 16, we will hold *padyatras* across the country to highlight the livelihood crisis. This campaign will conclude with a rally in Delhi on September 28," the CPI leader said.

"The Congress, as the largest party in the INDIA [Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance] bloc, should be more accommodative. It should undertake serious introspection and a self-critical review of its policies in relation to its allies," Mr. Raja said.

No military component in Nicobar project: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Accusing the Narendra Modi government of trying to label those opposed to the proposed transhipment hub on Great Nicobar island as being "soft on China", the Congress on Wednesday said the project was a commercial venture with no military component.

Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh alleged that the government had launched a "propaganda campaign" through its "ecosystem" to portray critics of the Great Nicobar Island Development Project as sympathetic to China, even as he accused the Centre of pursuing what he termed a policy of "Continuing, Calibrated Capitulation to China".

In a post on social media platform X, Mr. Ramesh described the charge against opponents of the project as "the height of hypocrisy".

Arguing that India must continue to address the economic and strategic challenge posed by China on multiple fronts, Mr. Ramesh maintained that the Great Nicobar Island Development Project was "overwhelmingly a commercial enterprise" and that the proposed transshipment port "has no component of military infrastructure".

TAMIL NADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU UNDERTAKING)
No.417, Pantheon Road, Chennai - 600 008. Phone : 044-2819 1890, 0259
Website : www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in e-mail : gmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in, mngrpurdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in

Online Tender is invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai – 600008, for the supply of **Drugs and Consumables** from the Licensed Manufacturers having three years Market Standing and holding Good Manufacturing Practice Certificate (as per revised Schedule-"M") issued by the Drug Control Authority. Direct Importers holding a valid Import License and experienced in the field for a minimum period of three years and Loan Licensees having valid Loan License are also eligible to participate in this tender.

Sl. No.	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1.	Online Tender for the supply of **Drugs and Consumables** to State Blindness Control Society under rate contract system for two years from the date of acceptance.	e-011/M(P)/SBCS/ TNMSC/2026, Dated. 22.05.2026	22.05.2026 at 3.00 PM to 16.06.2026 upto 3.00 PM	05.06.2026 at 10.00 PM to 16.06.2026 upto 3.00 PM	16.06.2026 at 4.00 PM

The tender document can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at **https://tntenders.gov.in/**. The tender document can also be downloaded at **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in** for reference purpose.

DIPR/1919/Tender/2026 **Tender Inviting Authority / General Manager (Drugs)**

राष्ट्रीय सिद्धा संस्थान / NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SIDDHA
आयुष मंत्रालय / **Ministry of Ayush**
भारत सरकार / **Government of India**
ताम्बरम सनटोरियम / **Tambaram Sanatorium** चेन्नई / **Chennai - 600 047.**
फ़ोन / **Tele : 044-22411611** ईमेल / **Email: director.nis-tn@gov.in**
वेब / **Website: https://nischennai.org**

मिसिल संख्या / F.No.NIS/1-30/Recruitment-Regular/2025 तारीख / Date : 20.05.2026

EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION NO: 03/2026

Applications in the prescribed format are invited for filling up the following posts in the National Institute of Siddha, **on Direct Recruitment basis / on Deputation basis (including short term contract):**

GROUP 'A' POSTS:

1) Professor:

S. No.	Name of the Department	No. of Post	Mode of Recruitment	Category
1.	**Maruthuvam**	01	Direct Recruitment	SC
2.	**Sattam Saarntha Maruthuvamum Nanju Maruthuvamum**	01	Direct Recruitment	UR
3.	**Gunapadam**	01	Deputation including short term contract	--

a. Scale of Pay: Pay Matrix: Level 13 + NPA [Pre-revised Scale of Pay : PB – IV (Rs.37400-67000) with GP Rs.8700/- + NPA admissible as per the Central Govt. Rules].

2) Associate Professor:

S. No.	Name of the Department	No. of Post	Mode of Recruitment	Category
1.	**Gunapadam**	01	Direct Recruitment	UR
2.	**Varmam, Puramaruthuvam and Sirappumaruthuvam**	01	Deputation including short term contract	--

a. Scale of Pay: Pay Matrix: Level 12 + NPA [Pre-revised Scale of Pay : PB – III (Rs.15600-39100) with GP Rs.7600/- + NPA]

3) Joint Director(Admin)

S. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Post	Mode of Recruitment
1.	**Joint Director(Admin)**	01	Deputation including short term contract

a. Scale of Pay: Pay Matrix: Level 12 [Pre-revised Scale of Pay : PB – III (Rs.15600-39100) with GP Rs.7600/-]

4) Assistant Professor: (Anatomy)

S. No.	Name of the Department	No. of Post	Mode of Recruitment	Category
1.	**Anatomy**	01	Direct Recruitment	EWS

a. Scale of Pay: Pay Matrix: Level 11 + NPA [Pre-revised Scale of Pay : PB – III (Rs.15600-39100) with GP Rs.6600/- + NPA] **Note:** NPA is applicable only for the candidates qualified in B.S.M.S. / MD (Siddha)/ MBBS]

5) Assistant Professor:

S. No.	Name of the Department	No. of Post	Mode of Recruitment	Category
1.	**Maruthuvam**	01	Direct Recruitment	SC (Backlog)
2.	**Varmam, Puramaruthuvam and Sirappumaruthuvam**	01	Direct Recruitment	OBC (Backlog)

a. Scale of Pay: Pay Matrix: Level 10 + NPA [Pre-revised Scale of Pay : PB – III (Rs.15600-39100) with GP Rs.5400/- + NPA]

6) Dy. Medical Superintendent / Medical Officer

S. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Post	Mode of Recruitment	Category
1.	**Dy.Medical Superintendent / Medical Officer**	01	Direct Recruitment	UR

a. Scale of Pay: Pay Matrix: Level 10 +NPA [Pre-revised Scale of Pay : PB – III (Rs.15600-39100) with GP Rs.5400 + NPA

GROUP 'C' POST:

7) Lower Division Clerk

S. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Post	Mode of Recruitment	Category
1.	**Lower Division Clerk**	01	Direct Recruitment	EWS

a. Scale of Pay: Pay Matrix: Level 2 [Pre-revised Scale of Pay : PB – I (Rs.5200-20200) with GP Rs.1900]

The cost of application is Rs.750/- for posts from S.No.1-6 and Rs. 500/- for S.No.7. Application form can be downloaded from the Institute website: **https://nischennai.org.** The application form should be **neatly typed / Handwritten in single side** in A4 size paper providing all the details. The filled up application along with application fee for Rs.750/- (S.No.1-6) and Rs.500/- (S.No.7) by way of a DD drawn in favour of "Director, National Institute of Siddha" payable at Chennai together with self attested photocopies of certificates / testimonials should be sent to "The Director, National Institute of Siddha, Tambaram Sanatorium, Chennai-600 047" within 45 days from the date of notification in the Employment News.

Other details regarding educational qualification, experience, age, general conditions, etc., are available in the Institute website: **https://nischennai.org.**

DIRECTOR

INBRIEF

13-nation military exercise commences in Meghalaya

A 13-nation military exercise began at the Umroi Military Station in Meghalaya on Wednesday. Apart from host India, soldiers from "12 friendly nations" are participating in the PRAGATI 2026. They are Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. The exercise seeks to provide a common platform for participating armies to engage in professional exchange and build closer military-to-military ties, the Defence Ministry said.

Private firm conducts firing trials of indigenous rockets

The Pune-based private sector defence manufacturer Nibe Ltd. has successfully conducted firing trials of its indigenous Suryastra rockets with strike ranges of 150 km and 300 km at the Integrated Test Range on May 18 and 19. The trials mark the first time an Indian private defence company has demonstrated indigenous long-range rocket systems of such capability, representing a significant milestone in India's defence preparedness.

SC flags lack of uniform excise laws across States

Lack of a clear definition for liquor 'bottle' has led to 'very deceptive' packaging of cheap alcohol, with liquor passed off as 'juice', says court; some excise laws include sacks and wrappers as 'bottle'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought a response from the Centre and States on a plea that excise laws differ widely from State to State, even on the point of clearly identifying what a liquor "bottle" really looks like.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant agreed that the lack of a clear, uniform and harmonious definition of the term "bottle" in excise laws across the country has led to a "very deceptive packaging" of cheap alcohol, which is even labelled as "fruit juice". The duplicitous marketing of liquor has led to a dramatic increase in the public consumption.

"There is 'green apple' vodka... This is very deceptive," Chief Justice Kant said. The court issued notice to the Centre and all the States.

> These packages pose various risks, including consumption by juveniles, drinking in a moving vehicle, health risks, increased ease of smuggling, ease of public consumption and environmental risks. Moreover, these [cartons] have attractive packaging with vivid colours, but do not have prominent health warnings
> **PETITION IN SUPREME COURT**

It is alarming that liquor is sold in cartons, clearly intended to mislead consumers, advocate Vipin Nair, representing petitioner-NGO, Community Against Drunken Driving, submitted.

The use of fruit names alongside colour photographs of apples and mangoes on the packaging further reinforces this deception, he added.

The petition said the government had an obligation to protect public health against the deliberate marketing strategy used by the liquor lobby to pass off alcoholic beverages as fruit juices in order to evade scrutiny by the authorities and target underage consumers.

He said the vague and varied definitions given to "bottle" in State excise laws also aid in deception through inconspicuous packaging of liquor in portable bottles, plastic sachets, and cartons.

"In some State laws, a bottle includes even a sack or a wrapper. The court has to direct the government to bring in some sort of standardisation," Mr. Nair submitted.

The petition said discretion conferred by the State excise laws to allow varied packaging of liquor was only intended for the sole purpose of raking in revenue, even at the cost of public and environmental health.

"These packages pose various risks, including consumption by juveniles, drinking in a moving vehicle, health risks, increased ease of smuggling, ease of public consumption and environmental risks. Moreover, these [cartons] have attractive packaging with vivid colours, but do not have prominent health warnings like in the case of cigarettes, which would dissuade people from drunken driving and responsible drinking," the petition said.

Rules for new rural employment scheme to be issued soon

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Centre informs parliamentary panel that 25 States have allocated funds for the programme

Rules governing the new rural employment guarantee scheme, the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin), which is scheduled to come into force from July 1, will be released by the government in the next few days, officials of the Union Ministry of Rural Development informed a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Wednesday.

The committee, headed by Congress leader Saptagiri Ulaka, met on Wednesday to review the preparatory work for the scheme's implementation.

The Centre has to address several issues, including the formulation of a system for normative allocation of funds among the States. Section 4(5) of the legislation says: "The Central government shall determine the State-wise normative allocation for each financial year, based on objective parameters as may be prescribed by the Central government."

The provision is aimed at ensuring a more equitable distribution of resources.

The Ministry informed the panel that 25 States have already allocated funds for the programme, and administrative and policy steps are being put in place. All major States have made the required budgetary provisions for implementation from July 1, sources said.

Beneficiaries will be issued new smart job cards, replacing those issued under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005. The new cards will include a face-recognition feature to improve transparency and accountability, sources said. Existing job cards will remain valid until the new Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Cards are issued.

NIA arrests Kolkata man for passing information to Pak.

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

He had earlier been convicted in an espionage cse under the IPC, Official Secrets Act

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a Kolkata resident allegedly involved in passing confidential security-related information to Pakistan intelligence officers (PIOs), said the agency on Wednesday.

The accused has been identified as Zafar Riaz alias Rizvi, against whom a Look Out Circular had earlier been issued and proceedings were initiated to declare him a proclaimed offender. He was married to a Pakistani national, with their children also being Pakistani citizens, as alleged. "Convicted earlier in an espionage case under the IPC (Indian Penal Code) and the Official Secrets Act, Zafar had been travelling frequently between India and Pakistan since 2005," the NIA said.

In a case registered by the NIA's Delhi unit in December 2025, the agency found that he was allegedly contacted and cultivated by PIOs to carry out espionage activities in India.

"To facilitate other espionage and terror operatives, the accused had provided one-time passwords (OTPs) of Indian telecom mobile numbers to a PIO to help him activate WhatsApp accounts. The alleged PIO had used these accounts to secretly communicate with one Moti Ram Jat, also an accused in the instant case. Jat was also engaged in conveying secret security-related information to the PIO," said the agency, adding that further investigations were under way.

In May 2025, the NIA arrested the then Central Reserve Police Force Assistant Sub Inspector Moti Ram Jat, who was dismissed from service. He had allegedly been passing on information to PIOs since 2023.

Will seek CBI probe into Twisha Sharma death, says Madhya Pradesh CM

Press Trust of India
BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government will seek a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the death of Noida woman Twisha Sharma, who died after being allegedly harassed for dowry in Bhopal last week, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav assured her family members on Wednesday.

The family members met Mr. Yadav and sought a fair probe. Twisha, 33, was found hanging at her marital home in Bhopal's Katara Hills area on May 12.

During the day, a court rejected a plea filed by Twisha's parents for a second autopsy

Mr. Yadav said he would write to the CBI, urging it to take up the probe, the statement added.

The police have registered an FIR against Twisha's husband, advocate Samarth Singh, and mother-in-law, retired judge Giribala Singh, under provisions related to dowry death and harassment. A court has rejected the anticipatory bail plea of Mr. Samarth, while his mother had earlier secured anticipatory bail. A Special Investigation Team has been constituted to probe allegations of dowry harassment, physical assault, and destruction of evidence. Twisha's family had alleged lapses in the investigation, claiming the FIR was registered three days after she was found dead.

The police have announced a reward of ₹10,000 for information leading to the arrest of Mr. Samarth, who remains absconding.

(Counselling is available at the free helpline TeleManas 14416)

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav meeting the family members of the late Twisha Sharma in Bhopal on Wednesday. ANI

NCW seeks report within seven days

NEW DELHI
The National Commission for Women (NCW) on Wednesday sought a detailed action-taken report from the Madhya Pradesh government within seven days on the death of Twisha Sharma. It also sought a fair, time-bound probe.

SRMIST, *The Hindu* to organise webinar on careers in agritech

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) and *The Hindu* will jointly organise a webinar on 'Agri Tech Revolution: Engineering the Future Farming', highlighting how rapid technological advancements are reshaping the agriculture sector and creating innovative solutions for modern farming challenges. This is a part of the 'Future Career Conversations' series.

Boosting productivity

With agriculture increasingly adopting smart technologies, the discussion will explore the growing role of engineering in improving productivity, sustainability, and efficiency in farming practices.

The key areas of focus will be the role of AI, the Internet of Things and drones in agriculture, climate change and sustainable farming solutions, agri startups and entrepreneurships, government policies and incentives, and emerging career opportunities in agri-engineering.

The panel will feature Leenus Jesu Martin M., Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, SRMIST; Jawaharlal M., Dean, SRM College of Agricultural Sciences; Devinder Dhingra, Principal Scientist (Process Engineering), Indian Council for Agricultural Research, Division of Agricultural Engineering; and Poorna Pushkala, CEO, Samunnati Foundation.

The session will be moderated by A.M. Jigeesh, Senior Deputy Editor, *The Hindu*.

The webinar will be held at 11.30 a.m. on May 23. Those interested may register at newsth.live/THSRMEE

CBI registers case against retired Navy Captain

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a case against a retired Navy Captain for possessing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

The case alleges that retired Captain Raminder Singh Wadhwa acquired movable and immovable assets in his own name and in the name of his family members.

According to the agency, the alleged disproportionate assets are worth over ₹3 crore.

The accused was commissioned as a Sub-Lieutenant in the Navy on July 1, 1989. He was promoted to the rank of Commander on December 16, 2006, and later to Captain (equivalent to Colonel in the Army) on August 6, 2016. He retired from service on May 31, 2024.

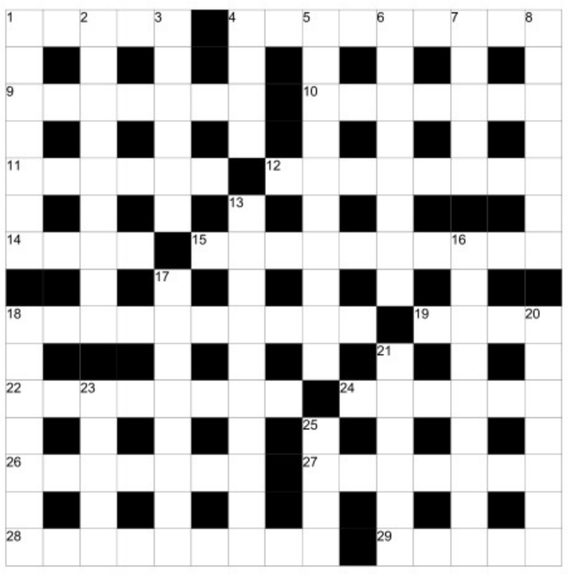
He had served at the National Security Council Secretariat and the Directorate of Naval Design (Submarine Design Group).

TH CROSSWORD + 14799

(set by Gussalufz)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

1. European in hurry, cycling for show (5)
4. Supported revolutionary Polish pacifist, right? (5,4)
9. West Indian player's style: play flamboyantly well, chasing century (7)
10. Chest scratched on both sides? Characteristic of fretfulness (7)
11. Man, perhaps I'm boring, overly fussy (6)
12. Stick slice of orange in bread — pastry! (8)
14. Gluttons slurp revoltingly, guzzling gallons (4)
15. Worried if flu U-turn is something not likely to yield (10)
18. With constraints dropped, Agent-I lessened courteous behaviour (10)
19. Till supply ends / first of February (4)
22. Unethical lab won; safeguards partially retracted? Swell! (8)
24. Popcorn ABC? (6)
26. Firm absurdly leaden, time to intervene (2,5)
27. Exciting undergarment and new shirt, after six (7)
28. Deodorise extravagantly around centre of navel, conceding, "I used too much" (9)
29. Dogfighter? (5)

DOWN

1. Release snake under bulk of relative (7)
2. Continuing with unfinished holy dip? No, god no! (7,2)
3. Withdraw and go authentic, says Rev. Spooner (6)
4. Excessively large organ (4)
5. A tense detective from the south: "Lock this tyrant!" (10)
6. Flower's top decomposed one day after coming up (8)
7. Very complete bar, special spirit (5)
8. It's about parts of kidneys, about part of eye (7)
13. Being not OK with news — sullen, distressed (10)
16. Female hit lovers with torches (9)
17. Stripped and dressed bird, including part of skeleton (8)
18. Bad cops with backing? Nothing touches, say! (7)
20. Brute force unleashed by Mrs., often randomly (7)
21. Tree regularly seen by a tomb, maybe (6)
23. Love left to wither, that's nothing new (5)
25. A film that's intense (4)

SUDOKU

				2		5		
		7	4					2
1	8					9		
		5			7		4	
	4		1	6	5		7	
	2		8			1		
		9					3	1
8					9	7		
		6		5				

No.SS6887 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

P	R	E	E	N	D	E	S	P
E	P	U	R	C	T	A	I	R
R	I	S	O	T	T	O	A	R
I	I	M	P	L	E	C	T	I
S	E	L	F	E	X	P	R	E
C	O	G	I	T	O	N	S	S
O	W	N	S	N	E	R	V	E
P	A	G	E	D	E	N	D	S
E	Q	U	A	L	I	S	E	D
N	T	R	F	A	W	E	R	G
C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R
I	S	T	I	C	E	U	O	S
D	U	A	L	I	S	M	S	U
E	R	S	E	E	U	L	E	M
M	E	D	I	T	A	T	E	D
P	R	E	S	S				

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	8	7	9	3	5	2	6	4
3	5	9	4	6	2	8	1	7
2	6	4	1	8	7	3	5	9
4	3	5	7	1	8	9	2	6
7	9	6	3	2	4	1	8	5
8	2	1	5	9	6	7	4	3
6	1	3	8	5	9	4	7	2
9	4	2	6	7	1	5	3	8
5	7	8	2	4	3	6	9	1

FAITH

Sacred kshetra Thiruthangal

Thiruthangal near Srivilliputtur is a divyadesam. The main deity in Thiruthangal is Nindra Narayana Perumal, said Thenthirupperai Parthasarathy in a discourse. He is in a standing posture, and so is the Goddess Sengamala Nachiar. In the main shrine of Nindra Narayana Perumal, four of His Devis are with Him - Sri Devi, Bhu Devi, Neela Devi and Jambavati. Sri Devi is known here as Anna Nayaki, Bhu Devi as Amrita Nayaki and Neela Devi as Ananta Nayaki. There once arose a quarrel among the friends of Lord's Consorts. Each had the idea that her friend was superior to the other Devis. Sri Devi did penance here and was declared superior to the rest of His Consorts. The Tamil word for Sri is Thiru. Since Sri Devi stayed in this place, it came to be called Thiruthangal.

The story of Jambavati's marriage to Krishna is interesting. Krishna's friend Shatrajit had a gem called Shyamantika, which Krishna liked very much. One day, Shatrajit's brother went hunting and was killed by a lion. He was wearing the gem at that time. Shatrajit went in search of him and found that he had been killed. The gem was missing. Everyone felt that since Krishna had admired it, He must have taken it. To clear His name, Krishna went looking for the gem. The gem was with Jambavan's child. Jambavan had killed the lion, and taken the gem for his child to play with. When Krishna tried to take the gem from the child, Jambavan fought with Him. When Jambavan realised that Krishna was another avatara of the Lord, he apologised and gave his daughter Jambavati in marriage to Krishna. Krishna's grandson Aniruddha married Usha, daughter of Banasura in this kshetra.

INBRIEF

NCDEX set to unveil weather derivatives contract

The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) on Wednesday said it will launch RAINMUMBAI, the country's first exchange-traded weather derivatives contract, on May 29, offering businesses and farmers a regulated tool to hedge against monsoon variability. The contract, which has received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), was developed with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay), using rainfall data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The instrument will be used to hedge losses from unpredictable weather and monsoon variability. IMD surface rainfall and automatic weather stations (AWS) observations at Santacruz and Colaba will be the source of rainfall data. The derivative will trade between 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 p.m.

Rupee slips 16 paise to settle at 96.86 against U.S. dollar

The rupee depreciated 16 paise to close at a fresh lifetime low of 96.86 against the U.S. dollar on Wednesday as elevated global crude prices amid the West Asia crisis stoked inflation worries. At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 96.89 against the U.S. dollar, then lost further ground to touch a record low of 96.95. It went up to the day's high of 96.65 before settling at a fresh all-time low of 96.86 against the greenback, registering a fall of 16 paise over its previous close. In the previous session, the rupee tumbled 50 paise to settle at 96.70. "Indian rupee hit fresh lows on a strong dollar and a surge in U.S. treasury yields. U.S. 30-year treasury yields rose to a two-decade high, while the 10-year yields rose to a 16-month high. "This led to inflation worries and sell-off in global markets," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Commodities Research at Mirae Asset Sharekhan. PTI

Australian LNG supplies to India will surge, says Green

Shipments could reach via the Indian Ocean route that is free of choke points, says Australian High Commissioner; lithium, copper may follow

Appaji Reddem
VIJAYAWADA

Amid the global energy shortage triggered by the West Asia crisis and tensions around the Strait of Hormuz, enhanced LNG supplies from Australia could become a viable alternative to bridge India's energy demand-supply gap, Australian High Commissioner to India Philip Green has said.

In an exclusive interaction with *The Hindu* in Vijayawada, Mr. Green said Australia's proximity to India's east coast and a crisis-free maritime route made Australian LNG well-suited to support eastern India's growing energy needs and green steel production.

At present, most LNG used for industrial and domestic needs in India comes from West Asian countries through ports on India's west coast.

"I can see a future where Australia increases LNG supplies to India," Mr. Green said, noting that Australia's major gas fields are located across the Indian Ocean from India's southern State, Andhra Pradesh. While LNG cargoes from Australia to India had already begun, supplies could become "much more substantial" in the future, particularly for eastern India.

Philip Green

He added that maritime routes between Australia and India remain free and supply chains intact.

Australia's metallurgical coal exports for Indian steel-making and imports of processed petroleum products from India are continuing and uninterrupted.

Mr. Green said that Australia currently exports LNG mainly to East Asian markets such as Japan, Korea and Singapore. The Indian Ocean route offers India a supply chain free from strategic choke points, he said.

ECTA-led surge

Trade between India and Australia is growing strongly and is expected to expand further, according to Mr. Green.

Indian exports to Australia have grown by 200% in the last five years, compared with 40% growth in exports to the rest of the world. "India is profiting five times more in trade with Australia than with the rest of the world," Mr. Green said. Since the implementation of the Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), Indian textile exports to Australia have risen 25%, agricultural exports 50%, and car exports 85%.

Australia is also aiming to play a major role in supplying critical minerals such as lithium and copper for the clean energy sector. The country produces nearly half of the world's lithium and already exports considerable quantities of copper to India.

Mr. Green said India's growing electric vehicle (EV) and battery industries will require much larger lithium supplies, making Australia a natural partner.

Australia is working with Indian government agencies and companies to build a direct lithium supply chain, including investments and offtake agreements in Australian lithium mines. He added that India must remain proactive in securing Australian lithium amid rising global competition from Europe, North America and East Asia.

"Indian consumers need to be active and hungry in a competitive global market looking to source more Australian lithium," he said.

Bharat Petroleum increases Russian share in crude oil purchases to 41%

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

The share of Russian crude oil in Bharat Petroleum's overall basket has increased to about 40-41% from about 31% during the quarter-ended March 2026, its Director for Finance Vetsa Ramakrishna Gupta told investors in an analyst call on Wednesday.

Mr. Gupta attributed the increased quantum of Russian crude to its wider availability in the spot market as well.

"Percentage of Russian [crude] cargo has definitely gone up. It was 31% in the fourth quarter (of FY 2025-26), but in the current period most of the supply on a spot basis, Russian crude is more available, therefore, offtake is higher at about 40-41%," Mr. Gupta told investors.

According to the senior executive, Russian crude constituted about 25% of the overall basket in the third quarter of the previous financial year.

Responding to a query about the impact of U.S. sanctions, Mr. Gupta explained that, rather than Russian crude being sanctioned, certain entities were sanctioned. He maintained that BPCL made its purchases only from non-sanctioned entities.

"During the waiver you could buy Russian crude from any party, and with the lapse of waiver you can only buy from non-sanctioned entities," he stated.

The refiner has secured crude oil supply until July this year, said Mr. Gupta.

"Whatever Russian crude we buy is always from non-sanctioned entities, be it the cargo vessel, port or supplies - those should be non-sanctioned entities."

Overall, the official said that it has secured crude oil supply until July this year.

"We have diversified to eight new grades of crude [oil] during the year, covering four geographical regions," he stated. "I would also like to assure that crude supplies have been secured till July 2026."

Elaborating on the diversification, Mr. Gupta told analysts that Bharat Petroleum tested varied grades of crude in the previous financial year, including those from North America and Middle East spot cargoes.

To a query about landing costs considering the elevated freight and insurance costs, Mr. Gupta said they were indicatively higher by about $12 for every barrel, although he added that they were dynamic and prone to change.

Investors mistake Parle Industries for toffee maker; shares up 5%

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

In an interesting turn of events, a penny stock, Parle Industries Ltd., hit the upper price band of 5%, closing at ₹5 a share, after Indian investors mistook it for FMCG company Parle Products Pvt. Ltd., that makes 'Melody' toffees.

The investors were reacting to a video shared by Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, in which Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is seen gifting her the toffee, suggesting that the brand name was a portmanteau of the two leaders' names.

Parle Products Pvt. Ltd., an unlisted company, is known for household snacks Parle-G, Monaco, Krack Jack, and Kismi.

Following the events, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal posted on his X page that India's toffee exports had more than doubled since 2013-14 to ₹132 crore in 2025-26.

However, toffee, caramel and similar sweets as a category constituted just 0.0034% of the total exports of ₹39.03 lakh crore in 2025-26, according to Commerce Ministry data. India is a small player in confectionery exports.

The episode assumes significance in the context of awareness levels among retail investors. In a study, the Securities and Exchange Board of India said most investors depend on social media influencers to make decisions.

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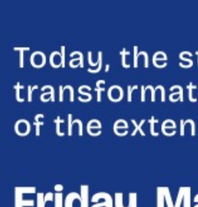
Key Dignitaries

Eknath Shinde
Deputy Chief Minister, Maharashtra

Dr Shrikant Shinde
Member of Parliament

Girish Mahajan
Cabinet Minister for Water Resources (Vidarbha, Tapi & Konkan), Kumbh Mela, & Disaster Management

Nitesh Rane
Minister for Fisheries & Ports Development


Ashish Shelar
Guardian Minister, Mumbai (Suburbs)

Ashwini Bhide, IAS
Municipal Commissioner, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)

Featured Sessions

Mumbai to Surjagad: Expressway to Prosperity
Address by Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Minister, Maharashtra

Navigating The Financial Capital
Ashwini Bhide, BMC Commissioner in conversation with
Vinaya Vilas Deshpande, Chief of Bureau, The Hindu

Mumbai and Beyond: The Plan for an Expanding Metropolis
Dr Shrikant Shinde, Member of Parliament
Ashish Shelar, Guardian Minister, Mumbai (Suburbs)
Dr Sanjay Mukherjee, IAS, Metropolitan Commissioner, Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)
Dr Mahendra Kalyankar, IAS, Chief Executive Officer, DRP/SRA
Moderated by Pankaj Joshi, Principal Director of Urban Centre, Mumbai

Kumbh: The Spiritual Boost for a Regional Economy
Girish Mahajan, Cabinet Minister for Kumbh Mela
Manisha Khatri, Municipal Commissioner, Nashik Municipal Corporation
Shekhar Singh, Commissioner, Nashik Kumbh Mela
Lubaina Rangwala, Program Head, Urban Development, WRI India
Moderated by Lalatendu Mishra, Senior Deputy Editor, The Hindu

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MIAMI

U.S. charges Raul Castro with murder over 1996 shootdown

AFP

Federal prosecutors on Wednesday charged former Cuban President Raul Castro, now 94, over the 1996 shootdown of two exile-operated civilian planes, accusing him of murder and aircraft destruction. The Trump administration called the indictment "long-overdue justice for the four Americans killed". AP

GENEVA

Board of Peace will ask UNSC to press Hamas militants to disarm

AFP

The Board of Peace, the body overseeing the U.S.-brokered ceasefire in Gaza, will ask the United Nations Security Council to press the Hamas militant group to disarm, according to a report on Tuesday. Last week, the head of the Board of Peace acknowledged that the deadlock over disarming Hamas had paralysed progress. AP

YANGON

Myanmar military claims capture of southern town on Thai border

AP

Myanmar's military claimed on Wednesday to have recaptured a town on the Thai border, expanding the frontier trade crossings it claims to control in the grinding civil war. The capture would of the southern Myanmar border town of Mawtaung represent another boost for the military, adding to a string of recent victories. AFP

MANILA

Philippine court says it won't stop ICC arrest of drug war enforcer

AFP

The Philippine Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to block the arrest of Senator Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa, wanted by the ICC over the deadly drug war, denying his request for interim relief in a 9-5-1 vote. The ICC last week unsealed an arrest warrant against Dela Rosa, accused of crimes against humanity. AFP

Putin, Xi hail 'resilient' relations in talks days after Trump's China visit

Beijing and Moscow have 'continuously deepened our political mutual trust and strategic coordination' with a resilience that remains unyielding, says Chinese President; the leaders have signed a slew of agreements on trade, media and energy

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Xi Jinping with Vladimir Putin during a welcoming ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, on Wednesday. REUTERS

President Xi Jinping hailed China and Russia's "unyielding" ties in talks with Vladimir Putin on Wednesday, as the pair met to underscore their alliance days after Donald Trump's own visit to Beijing.

The two countries' ties have deepened since Moscow's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, as Russia has become increasingly dependent on China.

Mr. Putin was received by Mr. Xi outside Beijing's opulent Great Hall of the People in much the same fashion as Mr. Trump last week, complete with chanting children and military fanfare.

But the language was much warmer, with Mr. Xi telling the Russian leader Beijing and Moscow have "continuously deepened our political mutual trust and strategic coordination with a resilience that remains unyielding", according to Chinese state media.

Opening talks, both were quick to laud their countries' special ties as they extended their treaty of "friendly cooperation".

Mr. Putin, quoting a Chinese phrase, told Mr. Xi: "A day apart feels like three autumns," adding that relations had reached an "unprecedentedly high level" despite "unfavourable external factors".

In an apparent swipe at the U.S., Mr. Xi warned of "unilateral and hegemonic countercurrents running rampant" in the world.

In contrast to Mr. Trump's visit last week, which yielded little in the way of immediate concrete announcements, Mr. Putin and Mr. Xi signed a slew of agreements on Wednesday on trade, media and energy. The two leaders will have tea later, at which "the most important issues" such as Ukraine, Iran and relations with the U.S. will be discussed, Kremlin foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov said.

"Russia and China are actively cooperating in the energy sector... We are ready to continue reliably supplying all these types of fuel to the rapidly growing Chinese market," Mr. Putin said on Wednesday.

Mr. Xi told Mr. Putin on Wednesday that "a comprehensive ceasefire [in Iran] is of utmost urgency, resuming hostilities is even more inadvisable and maintaining negotiations is particularly important".

War would spread beyond West Asia, say Iran Guards

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

A Basij force member demonstrates how to handle an assault rifle during a weapons training class in Tehran on Tuesday. AP

Iran warned on Wednesday that the West Asia war would spread far beyond the region if the United States and Israel resumed their attacks, after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to strike again unless a deal is reached.

A ceasefire on April 8 brought a halt to the conflict, which has roiled the global economy, but with Washington and Tehran seemingly reluctant to resume the fighting a war of words has taken its place.

U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly threatened Tehran with renewed military action, while Iranian officials have hit back with their own warnings of devastating action.

On Tuesday, U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance told presspersons that "a lot of good progress is being made" and "we're just going to keep working at it", even as he told Iran the U.S. military was "locked and loaded".

Iran's Revolutionary Guards issued their own threat on Wednesday, saying, "if the aggression against Iran is repeated, the promised regional war will this time spread far beyond the region".

Taiwan Travelogue wins International Booker Prize 2026

Radhika Santhanam

Yang Shuang-zi, right, with Lin King in London. AFP

Taiwanese author Yáng Shuāng-zi and translator Lin King won the International Booker Prize on Tuesday for *Taiwan Travelogue*, a historical romance set in Japan-occupied Taiwan in the 1930s.

It is the first novel written in Mandarin Chinese to win the prestigious prize for fiction translated into English. This is also the second year in a row that the independent press, And Other Stories, has taken home the prize, following *Heart Lamp* last year.

The prize was announced by Natasha Brown, chair of the 2026 judges, at a ceremony at London's Tate Modern on Tuesday. The judging panel said, "*Taiwan Travelogue* pulls off an incredible double feat: it succeeds as both a romance and an incisive postcolonial novel. As judges, we've enjoyed rich discussions about the many layers of this book. It's a captivating, slyly sophisticated novel."

Published in its original language in 2020, *Taiwan Travelogue* is the first of Ms. Yáng's books to be translated into English. Ms. Yáng has said she "wanted to untangle the complex circumstances" of Taiwan's time as a Japanese colony.

Ms. Yáng and Ms. Lin will split the £50,000 prize, which recognises the best fiction translated into English, equally between them.

(With AP inputs)

Israel's Ben Gvir sparks row over video of bound activists

Agence France-Presse
ASHDOD

Itamar Ben Gvir

Israel's far-right National Security Minister posted a video on Wednesday showing detained activists from a Gaza-bound flotilla kneeling with their hands tied and foreheads on the ground, sparking condemnation and calls for their swift deportation.

The video, shared on X by Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, was published after Israeli forces intercepted the flotilla's vessels at sea and began detaining hundreds of foreign activists at the southern port of Ashdod.

The video drew swift condemnation from Italy, while Mr. Ben Gvir himself was criticised by Israel's own Foreign Minister and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Captioned "Welcome to Israel", the footage shows dozens of activists on the deck of a military boat kneeling with their hands tied and foreheads on the ground with the Israeli national anthem playing in the background.

The footage also shows Mr. Ben Gvir heckling and waving an Israeli flag amongst the detained activists.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni slammed as "unacceptable" Israel's treatment of the activists and called for the immediate release of any detained Italian citizens and demanded an apology from Israel.

"It is intolerable that these protesters, among whom there are many Italian citizens, are subjected to this treatment, which violates human dignity," Ms. Meloni said in a statement.

Mr. Ben Gvir also drew the ire of Prime Minister Netanyahu, who said the Minister's dealing with the activists was "not in line with Israel's values and norms".

"I have instructed the relevant authorities to deport the provocateurs (activists) as soon as possible," Mr. Netanyahu said.

Foreign Minister Gideon Saar also criticised Mr. Ben Gvir on X, saying he had "knowingly caused harm to our State in this disgraceful display – and not for the first time".

However, Mr. Ben Gvir hit back at Mr. Saar.

"I am proud to be the Minister in charge of the organisations that operated today against those supporters of terror," Mr. Ben Gvir said in Parliament. "Yes, there will be all sorts of pictures that Gideon Saar does not like, but I think they are a great source of pride."

'Ebola risk high at regional and national levels, low worldwide'

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

The World Health Organization on Wednesday said the risk of the Democratic Republic of Congo's deadly Ebola outbreak was currently high at the national and regional levels but low worldwide.

WHO experts said that while investigations into its origins were ongoing, given the scale of the situation in the eastern DRC, the outbreak probably began a couple of months ago.

But the UN health agency's emergency committee said it did not currently meet the pandemic emergency threshold.

"WHO assesses the risk of the epidemic as high at the national and regional levels, and low at the global level," said the organisation's chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

So far, 51 cases have been confirmed in the DRC, in the eastern provinces of Ituri and North Kivu, "although we know the scale of the epidemic in DRC is much larger", he told a press conference at the WHO's headquarters in Geneva.

"Beyond the confirmed cases, there are almost 600 suspected cases and 139 suspected deaths."

कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड
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"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd **www.coalindia.in** / respective Subsidiary Company, CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in**".

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(An Autonomous Institute under Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India)
Paschim Boragaon, Garchuk, Guwahati- 781035

Advt. No. 591 **Date: 21/05/2026**

IASST, Guwahati invites applications for admission under institutional JRF programme for the year 2026-27. Application should be submitted online at **https://iasst.gov.in** within 15 days of publication of this advertisement.

Please refer to the detailed advertisement published in the web site **https://iasst.gov.in.**

Registrar, IASST

UTKAL UNIVERSITY
VANI VIHAR, BHUBANESWAR-751004, ODISHA
E-mail: registrar@utkaluniversity.ac.in

Advertisement for Recruitment of Faculty Positions

No.: Estt.I/1041(Vol-IV)/5816/2026 **Date: 19.05.2026**

Established in 1943, Utkal University occupies a foundational place in the higher education landscape of Odisha, emerging from an early generation of public universities that helped shape the intellectual architecture of modern India. Headquartered at its Vani Vihar campus in Bhubaneswar–spread across a sprawling ecosystem of 460 acres enriched by nature's bounty and complemented by the Utkal University Rural Campus at Chandikhole, spread over 66 acres, the University anchors an extensive academic network of nearly 430 affiliated colleges across the state. Embedded within the dynamic intellectual geography of South Asia, it aspires to evolve as a global destination for higher learning. Offering 47 academic programmes across diverse disciplines–including the Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Management–and extending from undergraduate to doctoral levels, the University reflects a wide spectrum of academic engagement. Rooted in a distinguished legacy yet responsive to a transforming knowledge order, it advances cutting-edge curricula, fosters innovation and incubation, and promotes transdisciplinary engagements within contemporary knowledge ecologies. Through its commitment to research excellence and evolving pedagogic practices, it sustains a dynamic interface between heritage, convention, and futurity.

Utkal University invites **online applications from eligible Indian citizens and also Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs)** for appointment to the posts of **Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor** against sanctioned positions across various Post-Graduate Departments, in accordance with Letter No. 5322/HE dated 31.01.2026 issued by the Department of Higher Education, Government of Odisha.

Disciplines / Departments:

Analytical & Applied Economics; Anthropology; Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology (AIHCA); Biotechnology; Botany; Business Administration; Chemistry; Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE); Commerce; Computer Science; English; Geography; Geology; History; Library & Information Science; Law; Personnel Management & Industrial Relations (PM&IR); Mathematics; Odia; Philosophy; Physics; Psychology; Political Science; Public Administration; Sanskrit; Sociology; Statistics; Zoology.

Vacancy positions for different posts:

Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Professor	Total
51	51	39	141

Eligibility & Qualifications:

Minimum qualifications, eligibility criteria, and service conditions shall be **governed by the UGC Regulations/Notifications, 2018/ Government of Odisha** guidelines as amended from time to time.

Application Process:

The application process shall be conducted **entirely in online mode** through the HIMS portal: **https://hims.odisha.gov.in/home**

Detailed advertisement, including department-wise vacancies and reservation positions, will be available on the University website: **www.utkaluniversity.ac.in** from **18.05.2026 onwards**.

Important Dates:

- **Opening of Online Application:** 19.05.2026
- **Closing of Online Application:** 20.06.2026
- **Last Date for Receipt of Hard Copy (Registered/Speed Post):** 29.06.2026

In addition, a hard copy of the downloaded application form along with all relevant documents must be sent to the **Registrar, Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar-751004, Khordha, Odisha** within the stipulated timeline.

General Instructions:

Applicants are advised to carefully review all eligibility conditions, qualifications, and procedural requirements before submission.

The University reserves the right to **modify, amend, or cancel** this advertisement, either in part or in full, without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Registrar

Rajasthan Olive Cultivation Limited
State Institute of Agriculture Management Campus, Durgapura, Jaipur-302018

शुद्धि - पत्र

राजस्थान ऑलिव कल्टीवेशन लिमिटेड, जयपुर के ई–निविदा संख्या 284–288 दिनांक 30/04/2026 में शुद्धि–पत्र 457–461 दिनांक 18.05.2026 जारी किया गया है। उक्त शुद्धि–पत्र का का संपूर्ण विवरण की **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखा जा सकता है।

(Tender ID 2026_ROCL_555347 UBN No. OCL2627SLRC00004)

राज.संवाद/सी/26/3156 चीफ ऑपरेशन ऑफिसर

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(An Autonomous Institute under Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India)
Paschim Boragaon, Garchuk, Guwahati- 781035

Advt. No. 592 **Date: 21/05/2026**

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited for the position of Post-Doctoral Fellow (PDF) under Physical Sciences and Life Sciences Divisions, IASST.

For advertisement, application submission and other details, please visit the Institute's website: **https://iasst.gov.in/**

Registrar, IASST

DIFFERENT TAKE

'Opposition bowlers have to do badly for a team to score 300'

VIJAY SONEJI

It's not so easy to score 300. The entire batting unit has to fire. And as a bowling unit, it's very difficult to bowl that badly. I'm not trying to say anything wrong, but the bowlers have to bowl really badly for any team to score 300. It can happen in the future. But for now, the game has that balance — GT opener Sai Sudharsan.

RAY OF HOPE

Kartik looks like a real player for the future, reckons Hussey

VIJAY SONEJI

I'm excited about what we've seen. Urvil Patel has shown he's got amazing power and talent. Ayush Mhatre showed us a glimpse of what he could do before building on it. Kartik Sharma started slowly and learned good lessons. He looks like a real player for the future — Batting coach Michael Hussey on young CSK willow-wielders.

ONE OF A KIND

What Sooryavanshi did against LSG was commendable: Parag

R.V. MOORTHY

Rajasthan Royals captain Riyan Parag rated Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's 93 against Lucknow Super Giants "his best knock" yet. "A lot of senior batters, even me if I am in that situation, would try to fight our way and not go with a calm mindset. But what Sooryavanshi did was commendable," said Parag after the win over LSG.

TIMELY BOOST

Royal Challengers opener Salt to return to India later this week

FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Royal Challengers Bengaluru opener Phil Salt is set to return to India later this week, as per *ESPNcricinfo*. The Englishman was sidelined from IPL 2026 for a month due to a finger injury, which was sustained during the loss to Delhi Capitals in Bengaluru. RCB next plays Sunrisers Hyderabad in Hyderabad on Friday.

Bowlers rise to the occasion as KKR lives to fight another day

Led by the crafty Narine, the hosts have the MI batters in a spin; Pandey and Powell shine with the bat for Rahane's men

IPL-19

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Kolkata Knight Riders' commendable bowling effort followed by Manish Pandey and Rovman Powell's useful knocks helped the three-time champion post a four-wicket win over Mumbai Indians in an IPL 2026 match at the Eden Gardens on Wednesday. The victory helped KKR stay alive in the race for a playoff berth.

After Ajinkya Rahane chose to field, Cameron Green, Saurabh Dubey, and Kartik Tyagi took two wickets each while Sunil Narine stemmed the run flow as KKR's disciplined bowling restricted MI to 147 for eight. The home team achieved the target with seven balls to spare.

KKR bowlers delivered their best PowerPlay (46 for four) of the season. Green struck twice in his first over, removing Ryan Rickelton to a fine Pandey catch and having Naman Dhir caught behind. Left-arm seamer Saurabh then dismissed Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav in consecutive overs. Rohit's mistimed shot was spectacularly caught by Green after a 33-yard run from mid-on while Suryakumar dragged one onto his stumps.

Following an hour-long rain interruption, KKR spinners took control. The crafty Narine dished out his variety, while Varun Chakaravarthy, nursing a foot injury, bowled tidily.

Purple strikes gold: Narine kept the MI batters guessing with his clever variations and picked up the key wicket of Hardik while Pandey held his nerve in a tricky chase. K.R. DEEPAK

Tilak Varma survived on 12 when Varun dropped a return catch. The left-hander fell soon after, pulling Tyagi to backward square-leg.

Narine bowled Hardik Pandya before Corbin Bosch's unbeaten 32 in the death overs lent respectability to MI's total.

In reply, KKR lost Finn Allen in the first over before Rahane and Pandey added 38 runs. But, Bosch executed his plans well to account for Rahane and Green in successive overs.

Batting for the first time in the season in his fifth outing, Pandey (45), applied himself on a tricky surface and batted sensibly.

The 36-year-old collected boundaries through straight hits and square-cuts, and forged a vital 64-run stand with Powell, who picked his areas to play the big hits.

The fall of Pandey and Powell in successive overs put KKR in a spot of bother before Rinku Singh hung on to ensure the host's victory past midnight.

Next assignment

MI: May 24 vs. RR
Mumbai, 3.30 p.m.

KKR: May 24 vs. DC
Kolkata, 7.30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

MUMBAI INDIANS
Ryan Rickelton c Manish b Green 6 *(7b, 1x4)*, Rohit Sharma c Green b Saurabh 15 *(13b, 2x6)*, Naman Dhir c Raghuvanshi b Green 0 *(2b)*, Suryakumar Yadav b Saurabh 15 *(6b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Tilak Varma c Anukul b Tyagi 20 *(32b, 1x6)*, Hardik Pandya b Narine 26 *(27b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Will Jacks run out 14 *(7b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Corbin Bosch (not out) 32 *(18b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Deepak Chahar c Anukul b Tyagi 10 *(7b, 2x4)*; Extras (b-4, lb-2, w-3): 9; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 147.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-17 (Rickelton, 2.3 overs), 2-17 (Naman, 2.6), 3-23 (Rohit, 3.5), 4-41 (Suryakumar, 5.3), 5-84 (Tilak, 13.4), 6-95 (Hardik, 15.2), 7-105 (Jacks, 16.4), 8-147 (Deepak, 19.6).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING
Anukul 1-0-6-0, Saurabh 4-0-34-2, Green 3-0-23-2, Tyagi 4-0-37-2, Narine 4-0-13-1, Varun 4-0-28-0.

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
Ajinkya Rahane c Rickelton b Bosch 21 *(17b, 4x4)*, Finn Allen **(Impact Player for Varun)** b Chahar 8 *(5b, 2x4)*, Manish Pandey b Bumrah 45 *(33b, 6x4)*, Cameron Green c Ghazanfar b Bosch 4 *(8b)*, Rovman Powell c Bosch b Ghazanfar 40 *(30b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Rinku Singh (not out) 9 *(5b, 2x4)*, Tejasvi Dahiya **(Concussion Substitute for Angkrish Raghuvanshi)** c Rickelton b Bosch 11 *(12b, 2x4)*, Anukul Roy (not out) 4 *(4b)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-1, w-4): 6; Total (for six wkts. in 18.5 overs): 148.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-10 (Allen, 0.6), 2-48 (Rahane, 5.4), 3-54 (Green, 7.1), 4-118 (Pandey, 14.6), 5-124 (Powell, 15.2), 6-140 (Tejasvi, 17.5).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Chahar 3-0-23-1, Bumrah 4-0-26-1, Bosch 3-0-30-3, Ghazanfar **(Impact Player for Rohit)** 4-0-25-1, Hardik 2-0-13-0, Raghu 2-0-23-0, Jacks 0.5-0-7-0.

Toss: Knight Riders.
Player-of-the-Match: Pandey.
KKR won by four wickets with seven balls to spare.

GT faces CSK, hopes to boost top-two chances

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
AHMEDABAD

Battle within a battle: Noor and Rashid will look to outdo each other in the clash between the Afghan spinners. VIJAY SONEJI

Gujarat Titans' fabulous five-match winning run may have come to an end with its 29-run loss against Kolkata Knight Riders. But Shubman Gill & Co. can take heart from the fact that they are playing their final IPL 2026 league fixture – after having already qualified for the playoffs – against Chennai Super Kings, the very same team they dismantled to kick off the hot streak.

The landscape has shifted considerably since GT and CSK last met in Chennai on April 26, when both teams had six points after seven games each.

While GT (13 games, 16 points) has given itself a genuine chance of making the cut for Qualifier 1, the five-time champion's hit-and-miss campaign (13 matches, 12 points) has resulted in it needing an NRR-boosting victory and many other results going its way to sneak into the knockouts.

Today's match

Ahmedabad, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 9
GT 5 | CSK 4

PREVIOUS MEETING
GT won by **eight wickets**, 2026

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

Bowling firepower

Armed with a lethal pace battery and a three-game winning streak at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Titans will hold the edge over Super Kings when they meet here on Thursday.

No other team's fast bowlers have taken more wickets at any venue this season than GT's seamers in Ahmedabad.

With 42 scalps at an average of 17.69 and economy of 8.12, Titans' speed merchants should be given due credit for their bullish run.

CSK batting coach Michael Hussey is aware of the challenge and wants his pacers to trust their individuality.

"There's no point in trying to bowl like Kagiso Rabada, Mohammed Siraj or Jason Holder. They might be different type of bowlers. The most important thing is to bowl to your strengths. The pitch here has provided good pace and bounce, and GT has played it well. Our bowlers, too, will enjoy bowling here. However, it's important that we don't try to be like them," Hussey said on Wednesday.

The ball is in the players' court now.

Dhoni has a sore thumb, he is not with the team: Hussey

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
AHMEDABAD

Dhoni. FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

Chennai Super Kings isn't laying down arms yet.

Batting coach Michael Hussey's reply when asked to give an update on M.S. Dhoni's participation in the game and beyond indicated as much.

"I can confirm Dhoni is not here with the team, but if we do happen to qualify, he'll definitely join back up with the squad. He's got a bit of a sore thumb. He's recovering nicely, but he won't be ready for this match.

"If we manage to get through to the playoffs, hopefully he'll be alright," Hussey said on Wednesday, the eve of CSK's do-or-die IPL 2026 fixture against Gujarat Titans at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

Hussey admitted that the team was frustrated after losing to Sunrisers Hyderabad.

"It was disappointing, especially in front of our home fans. Obviously, it's made it difficult for us to get through to the knockouts. Everyone will take lessons from it, but we've got to move on quickly. We were a bit flat in the dressing room. The coach (Stephen Fleming) spoke to us about having one more game and one more chance. It's all about having the right attitude moving forward."

GT opener Sai Sudharsan said his team's top priority was to seal a win, adding that it will worry about the margin of victory and its Qualifier 1 chances later.

"We are not in a position to think about winning by a very big margin. It's about doing the right things consistently."

When asked to reflect on the win against CSK in the last meeting and the recent loss to Kolkata Knight Riders, Sai Sudharsan said: "I'm not looking at the previous games. We are not bringing in that residue or past into this match. We are trying to be as fresh as possible".

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Royal Challengers (Q)	13	9	4	0	18	1.065
Gujarat Titans (Q)	13	8	5	0	16	0.400
Sunrisers Hyderabad (Q)	13	8	5	0	16	0.350
Rajasthan Royals	13	7	6	0	14	0.083
Punjab Kings	13	6	6	1	13	0.227
Kolkata Knight Riders	13	6	6	1	13	0.011
Chennai Super Kings	13	6	7	0	12	-0.016
Delhi Capitals	13	6	7	0	12	-0.871
Mumbai Indians (E)	13	4	9	0	8	-0.510
Lucknow Super Giants (E)	13	4	9	0	8	-0.702

Q: Qualified | E: Eliminated

Sooryavanshi is just getting started, there's more to come

P.K. Ajith Kumar
JAIPUR

One of the enduring images for those who watched Sachin Tendulkar bat in Australia in 1991-92 could well be the expression on the big-moustached face of Merv Hughes. The big fast bowler had been straight-driven gloriously for a boundary by the curly-haired, baby-faced teenager at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Hughes was surprised. Or shocked, rather. Maybe bewildered, even.

More than three decades later, the world's most fearsome bowlers are sporting similar looks. They are being tormented by another baby-faced teenager. Mitchell Starc, Jasprit Bumrah, Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Lungi Ngidi: he spares none.

Sooryavanshi... never a dull moment when he bats. R.V. MOORTHY

This one's hair is not curly. And he bats left-handed. And he prefers to deal in sixes mostly.

His journey has only begun, but make no mistake, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is blessed with genius. The latest proof came on Tuesday at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium here.

T20 cricket may not usually produce long-time memories, but some of the shots Sooryavanshi played – over extra-cover against the two quick Yadavs, Mayank and Prince, and the ramp off the latter – will be remembered.

A six over the wicket-keeper's head isn't cricket's prettiest of shots, but when he played that, with such timing, such inventiveness, you didn't mind. You admired.

Sooryavanshi's 38-ball 93 came in a must-win match for Rajasthan Royals against Lucknow Super Giants. He had begun sedately - 11 off 12 balls.

He played second fiddle to stand-in captain Yashasvi Jaiswal initially. Then, he exploded. The Yadavs and other bowlers soon began to resemble Hughes.

LSG coach Langer in awe of Sooryavanshi

P.K. Ajith Kumar
JAIPUR

Justin Langer has been around the 22 yards for a while. Three decades and a half, in fact.

He has played with and against and watched some of the greatest batters of our time. He is still awed by Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's batting. The former Australian opener, who played 105 Tests, feels the teenager has lit up world cricket.

"I have seen some amazing players in 35 years of cricket," the Lucknow Super Giants coach said shortly after Sooryavanshi played a match-winning innings for Rajasthan Royals at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium on Tuesday night.

"To see a young man bat like that, not just tonight but throughout the series, is breathtaking."

Langer is impressed by the way he treats formidable bowlers like Mitchell Starc and Anrich Nortje.

"As an ex-batter, knowing how hard batting is, I think, 'what is going on here?'" he said.

"The bowlers are thinking, 'what on earth is going on here?' It is incredible actually to be able to play that way, there is high risk to it, and now he has the Orange Cap. He is doing it in every form of the game and scoring a lot of runs. Ultimately that is what the game is about."

He said the scary thing was how Sooryavanshi would play going forward. "The best way to learn how to make runs is to make runs, not by hitting some big sixes," Langer said.

"The scary thing going forward, if you go by the expressions on the faces of Starc, Nortje and every bowler now, is what about when he learns how to bat?"

INBRIEF

Saka says Arsenal critics 'not laughing anymore'

Bukayo Saka said that Arsenal's critics were "not laughing at us anymore". "Let me tell you something. Twenty-two years, 22 years. there was laughing, there was joking, they're not laughing anymore," the England international said. "Look, it is going to be shining, it is going to be shining bright."

Guardiola swerves around Manchester City exit talk

Pep Guardiola said he would speak to Manchester City's hierarchy over his future after his team's hopes of winning the Premier League ended on Tuesday. "Allow me to talk with my chairman," Guardiola told the *BBC*. "I have one more year (of my) contract. When I finish the season every time we talk about it. I never talk with anyone. First of all, I talk with my chairman and my bosses."

Dhairya shocks Chun in Asian junior squash

India's Dhairya Gogia on Wednesday shocked Hong Kong's 5/8 seed Tse Ka Chun 12-10, 10-12, 11-7, 11-7 in the first round of the boys' U-13 section at the 33rd Asian junior squash championships in Panzhihua, China, on Wednesday.

The results (1st round): U-13: Boys: Amarya Bajaj bt Chau Hyo Chon (Mac) 11-1, 11-1, 11-5; Abhyuday Arora bt Danuja Jayasinghe (SL) 11-5, 11-4, 11-1; Dhairya Gogia bt Tse Ka Chun (HK) 12-10, 10-12, 11-7, 11-7.
Girls: Riyaa Dalal bt Dheerya Mithali Silva (SL) 11-0, 11-6, 11-7; Alia Kankaria bt Eun Choi 11-4, 11-6, 11-5.

Veteran midfielder Xhaka in Switzerland World Cup squad

Veteran midfielder Granit Xhaka will take part in his seventh successive major international tournament after he was named in Switzerland's football World Cup squad on Wednesday. Switzerland reached the last-16 stage in the last three World Cups and the quarterfinals of the last two European Championships.

The squad: Goalkeepers: Gregor Kobel, Marvin Keller, Yvon Mvogo; **Defenders:** Ricardo Rodriguez, Silvan Widmer, Manuel Akanji, Miro Muheim, Nico Elvedi, Aurele Amenda, Luca Jaquez, Eray Comert; **Midfielders:** Johan Manzambi, Granit Xhaka, Remo Freuler, Denis Zakaria, Ardon Jashari, Michel Aebischer, Djibril Sow, Christian Fassnacht, Fabian Rieder; **Forwards:** Noah Okafor, Dan Ndoye, Zeki Amdouni, Breel Embolo, Ruben Vargas, Cedric Itten.

Taijul claims six, Bangladesh clinches Test series

Spinner Taijul Islam took six for 120 to lead Bangladesh to a 78-run win over Pakistan in the second Test and clinch a 2-0 series win at Sylhet on Wednesday. It was Bangladesh's first Test series win at home against Pakistan and a second successive sweep after a 2-0 triumph on Pakistan soil in 2024. The victory took Bangladesh (58.33%) to the fifth spot in the World Test Championship (WTC) standings while India (48.15%) slid to sixth.

The scores: Bangladesh 278 & 390 bt Pakistan 232 & 358 in 97.2 overs (Rizwan 94, Taijul 6/120); **PoM:** Litton Das; **PoS:** Mushfiqur Rahim.

LIVE TELECAST

ISL: Sony Sports Ten 2 & FanCode, 5 & 7.30 p.m.
IFL: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 6.30 p.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Arsenal — how the title was won

Pickpockets, set-pieces and keeping the faith — inside the Gunners' journey to the pinnacle of English football

The Magnificent Men

The numbers behind Gunners' title march:

1 Arteta is the first manager to clinch the Premier League (PL) title with a club he had represented as a player

2 At 44y and 54d, Arteta is the second youngest manager to go the distance in the PL after Mourinho (42y 94d and 43y 93d), who did it twice with Chelsea

4 Arsenal has four PL trophies in its kitty, the first three coming under Wenger

6 Arteta has led the Gunners to a top-division crown in his sixth full season in charge

8 Arsenal has now won the league in eight different decades

14 The 2025-26 PL victory was the London club's 14th top-flight title

16 At 16y and 144d (on the final day of the season), Dowman will become the youngest medal winner in the league's history

19 Clean sheets Arsenal has kept so far this PL season, the best in the competition

Joyous: Arsenal supporters descend at the Emirates to celebrate a first Premier League title in more than two decades. AP

PREMIER LEAGUE

Associated Press
LONDON

Manchester City's 1-1 draw at Bournemouth on Tuesday assured Arsenal a first Premier League title since Arsene Wenger's "Invincibles" in 2004.

But the road to success was anything but smooth.

Back in 2021, Arsenal's hierarchy had a big decision to make. It was August 28, and the team had just lost 5-0 at Man City to slump to the bottom of the Premier League standings with a third straight loss to open the season – something that hadn't happened since 1954.

Mesut Ozil, who had just left Arsenal after being frozen out by Arteta, sarcastically posted "Trust the process" on social media, in a cutting reference to the methods of his former coach.

The board, headed by American owner Stan Kroenke, stuck with Arteta, though.

In the early years of his tenure, Arteta placed his trust in younger players to revive Arsenal's fortunes.

Bukayo Saka and Emile Smith Rowe were among the academy players promoted to the first team. An 18-year-old Gabriel Martinelli arrived from Brazil in 2019.

Another 18-year-old, William Saliba, joined the same year from France and was initially loaned out. Over the next couple of years, players under the age of 23 – such as Ben White and Martin Odegaard – were signed.

Arteta honed these youngsters into top-class Premier League players but it was clear that to make the final step, the club needed to buy slightly older, elite-level players like Declan Rice, Viktor Gyokeres and Eberechi Eze.

They didn't come cheap.

Finishing as runner-up in the Premier League for the past three years saw Arsenal's players and Arteta derided as "nearly men," even chokers.

But Arteta kept believing in his squad – and kept coming up with unorthodox, ridicule-inviting methods to inspire his players.

A professional pickpocket was reportedly hired for a preseason dinner and took items from players, highlighting the need for them to be alert at all times.

Arteta brought a lightbulb into the locker room ahead of one game, linking that to his demand for the team to shine and light up Emirates Stadium. Just a few weeks ago, TikTok videos featuring fan chants were played on big screens during practice sessions.

For a couple of seasons, Arteta's Arsenal has been the emblem of a more back-to-basics approach in English football – set-pieces, long throw-ins and long balls from the back.

It's a world Arsenal has mastered, with Gabriel Magalhaes a menace at corners, Rice key with his pinpoint throws and dead-ball deliveries, and Gyokeres a more robust, hold-up striker.

Rice and goalkeeper David Raya have stood out for Arsenal this season, putting them among the favorites for English soccer's Player of the Year award.

City's stumble hands Arsenal the title

Agence France-Presse
BOURNEMOUTH

Thousands of Arsenal fans descended on the Emirates Stadium to celebrate a first Premier League title in 22 years on Tuesday after Manchester City was held 1-1 by Bournemouth.

City had to win to take the title fight to the final day, but the Cherries extended their unbeaten streak to 17 league games, a run which has secured European football for the first time in the club's history.

After finishing second for the past three seasons, Mikel Arteta's side has finally made it over the line to end a six-year trophy drought.

Eli Junior Kroupi curled a brilliant strike into the top corner to set a new record of 13 goals in a debut Premier League season for a teenager.

Too late

Erling Haaland's equaliser deep into stoppage time was too little, too late to save City's title challenge.

Elsewhere Tottenham was left sweating over its survival in the top division after losing to a struggling Chelsea 2-1.

The results:
Bournemouth 1 (Kroupi 39) drew with Manchester City 1 (Haaland 90+5).
Chelsea 2 (Fernandez 18, Santos 67) bt Tottenham 1 (Richarlison 74).

Sasikumar the lone Indian in last eight as Kriish, Manish and Sidharth lose

TENNIS

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Mukund Sasikumar emerged as the lone Indian to progress into the quarterfinals of the S.M. Krishna Memorial Open here on Wednesday. A consistent Sasikumar (world no. 524) took out Japanese qualifier Taiyo Yamanaka 6-4, 7-6(1) in the round-of-16.

The experienced Sasikumar scored a decisive break in the 10th game to wrap up the opening set. In the second set, the 29-year-old Indian reserved his best for the tie-break.

Sasikumar, alongside Adil Kalyanpur, also reached the doubles quarterfinal with a 6-3, 7-5 victory over Dominik Palan (Czech Republic) and Digvijaypratap Singh.

Hard work: Sasikumar held off Yamanaka's challenge to seal a spot in the next round. K. MURALI KUMAR

Teenage wild card Kriish Tyagi, who reached the semifinal of the Karnataka Open ATP Challenger here last week, went down to third seed Hamish Stewart 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Manish Sureshkumar, who stunned top seed and Karnataka Open champion Keegan Smith in the first round, lost to former World No. 40 Ilya Ivashka 1-6, 1-6.

Sidharth Rawat's campaign ended at the hands of sixth-seeded Serbian Ognjen Milic, who recorded a 6-3, 6-1 win.

The results (round-of-16):
Mukund Sasikumar bt Taiyo Yamanaka (Jpn) 6-4, 7-6(1);
Alastair Gray (GBr) bt Dominik Palan (Cze) 6-3, 7-6(2); Ilya Ivashka bt Manish Sureshkumar 6-1, 6-1; Hamish Stewart (GBr) bt Kriish Tyagi 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.
Alex Hernandez (Mex) bt Naoya Honda (Jpn) 5-7, 7-5, 6-4; Mitsuki Wei Kang Leong (Mas) bt Yusuke Takahashi (Jpn) 6-3, 6-2.
Ognjen Milic (Srb) bt Sidharth Rawat 6-3, 6-1; Petr Bar Biryukov bt Leo Vithoontien (Jpn) 7-6(4), 6-4.

Domestic season to open with Duleep from Aug. 23; Ranji Trophy from Oct. 11

CRICKET

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The Ranji Trophy champions of the previous two editions – Jammu & Kashmir and Vidarbha – have been clubbed together along with Madhya Pradesh in the same group as the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the detailed calendar for the forthcoming domestic season.

While defending champion Jammu & Kashmir will be hoping to defend its crown by finishing in top two in Group A, Karnataka is one of the three southern teams to be placed in Group B along with familiar foe Saurashtra.

Tamil Nadu, after a mediocre campaign last season, will have to upstage domestic giant Mumbai along with consistent sides like Uttarakhand, Haryana and Railways in a bid to make it to the knockouts from Group D.

The seven-month-long season will begin with the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru hosting the Duleep Trophy from August 23 and finish with the Women's Inter-Zonal Multi-Day tournament on March 28 next year.

The BCCI has altered the Under-23 (A) limited-overs tournament from 50-overs-a-side to a T20 tournament.

The tournament, scheduled to begin on December 1, will thus offer an additional opportunity for the IPL franchisees' talent scouts to witness promising domestic cricketers ahead of the auction.

The groups: Ranji Trophy: Elite: Group A: Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Baroda, Uttar Pradesh, Pondicherry, Goa, Bihar.
Group B: Karnataka, Andhra, Saurashtra, Chhattisgarh, Hyderabad, Tripura, Punjab, Assam.
Group C: Bengal, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Services, Gujarat, Kerala, Delhi, Odisha.
Group D: Uttarakhand, Mumbai, Haryana, Railways, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh.
Plate: Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh.
Vijay Hazare Trophy: Elite: Group A: Vidarbha, Madhya Pradesh, Baroda, Railways, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Andhra, Bihar.
Group B: Saurashtra, Mumbai, Haryana, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Hyderabad, Services.
Group C: Punjab, Delhi, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Rajasthan, Chandigarh.
Group D: Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Bengal, Tripura, Odisha, Assam, Pondicherry.
Plate: Sikkim, Manipur, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram.
Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy: Elite: Group A: Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Baroda, Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh, Karnataka, Mizoram.
Group B: Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Railways, Tamil Nadu, Saurashtra, Bihar.
Group C: Andhra, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Pondicherry, Kerala, Assam, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh.
Group D: Hyderabad, Mumbai, Goa, Gujarat, Vidarbha, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh.
Plate: Services, Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh.
Major men's tournaments for 2026-27 — Duleep Trophy: August 23 to September 10 (Bengaluru, CoE); **Irani Cup:** October 1 to 5 (Jammu or Srinagar); **Ranji Trophy: League stage leg 1:** October 11 to November 5; **Leg 2:** January 17 to February 4, 2027; Knockouts: February 9 to March 3, 2027; **Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy: League stage:** November 14 to 26 (Mumbai, Visakhapatnam, Kolkata, Mohali, Dimapur); November 30 to December 6 (Nagpur). **Vijay Hazare Trophy: League Stage:** December 14 to 29 (Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Ranchi, Rajkot, Indore); **Knockouts:** January 2 to 8, 2027 (Visakhapatnam).

Major women's tournaments — Senior Women's T20 Trophy: League stage: October 26 to November 6 (Lucknow, Pune, Delhi, Mohali, Dimapur), Knockouts: November 14 to 20 (Ahmedabad); **Senior Women's Inter-Zonal T20 Trophy:** November 24 to December 4 (Guwahati); **Senior Women's One-Day Trophy: League stage:** December 19 to 31 (Cuttack, Jaipur, Baroda, Raipur, Kolkata), Knockouts: January 4 to 10, 2027 (Chennai); **Senior Women's Inter-Zonal One-Day Trophy:** February 17 to 27, 2027 (Chennai). **Senior Women's Inter-Zonal Multi-Day Trophy:** March 13 to 28, 2027 (Dehradun).

Malvika, Ashmita advance; Lakshya and Prannoy out

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
KUALA LUMPUR

Malvika Bansod, Ashmita Chaliha and Devika Sihag emerged as the lone bright spots on an otherwise disappointing day for India at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 here, advancing to the second round with contrasting wins in women's singles.

Malvika, who is on a comeback trail after recovering from an ACL injury that required surgery, fought back strongly to beat Germany's world No. 52 Yvonne Li 21-17, 16-21, 21-9, while Ashmita registered a comfortable 21-16, 21-13 victory over Indonesia's world No. 56 Thalita Ramadhani Wiryawan.

Malvika will face Denmark's eighth seed Line Hojmark Kjaersfeldt, while Ashmita takes on Malaysia's Goh Jin Wei next.

Devika, who won the Thailand Masters in February this year, saw off Park Ga Eun of Korea 19-21, 21-18, 21-19.

However, India also suffered a string of early exits across categories.

In men's singles, eighth seed Lakshya Sen, the brightest Indian prospect, crashed out after a shock 17-21, 11-21 defeat to Indonesia's world No. 38 Moh. Zaki Ubaidillah.

H.S. Prannoy, the 2023 Asian games and World Championships bronze winner, too bowed out after a marathon battle against Japan's sixth seed Kodai Naraoka, losing 17-21, 22-20, 22-24 in an 80-minute contest.

Kiran George retired while trailing 15-21, 1-6 against France's seventh seed Alex Lanier.

India's Tharun Mannepalli lost 21-17, 14-21, 8-21 to Chinese Taipei's Wang Po-Wei.

In women's singles, Anmol Kharb went down 21-13, 16-21, 19-21 to Denmark's eighth seed Line Christophersen Kjærsfeldt.

Government of Karnataka

Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ayanur Sub Division, Shivamogga

No.: ACF/Tender/CR-01/2025-26 Date: 18.05.2026

Short-Term e-Tender Notice call - 2
(Through e-Procurement Portal)

Short-Term Tenders Call-2are invited through e-procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000 from interested Forest contractors registered in Forest Department as Forest contractors for the year 2026-27 and having experience of growing saplings of various sizes, plantation advance works and having experience of carrying out similar works as put to tender in the Forest Department and having necessary facility for growing of saplings in the limits of the zone where works have to be carried out for implementation of "Formation of Monsoon Plantation and carrying out Advance Works" in the limits of various Forest Zones of Shivamogga Regional Forest Division including Change of places of work implementation mentioned in e-procurement portal under various Head of Account based on expected Grant for the year 2026-27. Last date for submission of Tenders is fixed as: 03.06.2026 up to 4.00 PM.For further information this office can be contacted during office hours and details of the Tender can be obtained through the official website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Ayanur Sub Division, Shivamogga

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/88/05/257

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)

Office of the Executive Engineer, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

Ph : 08282-271063 Fax : 08282-271063
E-mail : eeknnlbdvt@yahoo.co.in

No.EE/KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra/Tender Notification No: 04/2026-27 Dated : 16.05.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Percentage Tenders by e-procurement portal in the prescribed form is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore from the eligible Contractor under the **Head of Account 4701 Bhadra. The No. of work is 02. The approximate cost of amount put to tender is varies from Rs.16.88 Lakhs to Rs.101.67 Lakhs. the amount of EMD is Varies From Rs.42,300/- to 2,00,000/- (by kpp portal)** contactors can access and submission of completed e-tendering documents **from 20.05.2026 to 30.05.2026 upto 17.30 hours** in the website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. **Financial Bid will be opened on 01.06.2026 (For Sl No.1) and Technical Bid will be opened on 01.06.2026 at 17.30 hours (For Sl No.02)** and after obtaining approval of technical bid from competent authority Finacial bid will be opened. Stipulated period for the completion of work is 04 and 08 Months (Including Monsoon).

For more conditions and details visit website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. OR at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone No. 8660573513.

DIPR/SMG/No.80-05 zenkar/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL,No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, KARNATAKA ACADEMY OF PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

KALIDASA ROAD, BENGALURU-560009
TELEPHONE : 9480806400, e-Mail : academy.prisons-kar@ka.gov.in

No.KAP&CS/EXE/CR-1/2026-27 Dated: 18-05-2026

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

As per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act-1999 and Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Rules-2000, e-procurement for providing various Manpower Services for the Karnataka Academy of Prisons and Correctional Services, Kalidasa Road, Bengaluru on service contract for the year 2026-27 through e-Procurement.

Sl No	Tender Indent No.	Brief details of Tender	EMD Amount (in Rs.)	Last date for submission of Bid
1	PCSD/2026-27/SE0018	Providing various Manpower Services for the Karnataka Academy of Prisons and Correctional Services, Bengaluru	56,208/-	03-06-2026

In order to participate in e-Procurement platform, all the intended tenderers have to register in the e-Procurement portal. Tenderers can also take assistance with e- procurement help desk at 080-22861002, 080-22861005. For further details, please visit at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Director
Karnataka Academy of Prisons & Correctional Services, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/745/Zenkar/2026-27

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Jayanagar Division, No.44, 18th Main road, 39th Cross, Jayanagar 4th T block, Bengaluru-560041. Telephone: 080-22975711, e-mail: eejayanagarbbmp@gmail.com

No: EE/BSCC/JN/TEND/03/2026-27 Date : 20-05-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(TWO COVER SYSTEM) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Jayanagar Division, BSCC invites tenders on behalf of the Commissioner, BSCC from eligible contractors registered in Greater Bengaluru Authority (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations for the constructions of work detailed in the table below.

Sl.	Name of the Work
1	Restoration of bad reaches and potholes to Bannerghatta main road from Dairy circle (elevated metro train starting) to Vega city mall. **Estimate Cost :** Rs. 93.68 Lakh. **EMD :** Rs. 18,73,600/-

(1) Tender must be submitted online through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** on or before **16:00 hours on 05-06-2026** the opening of tenders will be as per the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Guidelines. **(2)** Pre bid meeting will be held on **29-05-2026 at 15:00 hours** in the office of The Chief Engineer, Jayanagar Zone (Zone-1), Bengaluru South City Corporation, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560011 to clarify the issue and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in "Instructions to Bidders" of the bidding document. **(3)** Technical Bids will be opened on the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** the office of the Executive Engineer, Jayanagar Division on or after **06-06-2026 at 16:05 hours. (4)** Financial Bids will be opened on the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** the office of the Executive Engineer, Jayanagar Division on or after **08-06-2026 at 16:05 hours**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Jayanagar Division
Bengaluru South City Corporation

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A BG-BGE

From reluctant bowler to rising all-rounder: Madhav steps up at Delhi Capitals

The 22-year-old is yet to feature for Madhya Pradesh at the senior level; he attracted attention playing for Bhopal Leopards in the MP T20 League

Sparkling: Madhav, right, has repaid skipper Axar's faith in giving newer players a chance.
SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

IPL-19

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

Moments after Delhi Capitals suffered a harrowing loss to Kolkata Knight Riders at home on May 8, skipper Axar Patel, resigned to his team not making the playoffs of IPL 2026, said the remaining three league games would be used to give opportunities to newer players. One of the beneficiaries of Axar's view has been all-rounder Madhav Tiwari.

The 22-year-old from Madhya Pradesh – his family hails from Rewa district but he was born and brought up in Indore – has grabbed his opportunity in DC's previous two matches. The seamer picked up two wickets apiece against both Punjab Kings and Rajasthan Royals, and he also provided a glimpse of his ability with the willow during an unbeaten 14-ball 18 to seal a successful chase at the expense of Shreyas Iyer's men.

Curiously, Madhav, whose IPL debut came against Mumbai Indians last year, is yet to feature for his State team at the senior level. He attracted the attention of Capitals when he turned out for Bhopal Leopards in the maiden Madhya Pradesh T20 League in 2024.

"What was spoken about Madhav when we picked him was that he was somebody who liked the pressure. He can bat, hit a long ball, and also bowl through all three phases," DC head coach Hemang Badani told the media.

Madhav owes his cricketing skills to former India batter Amay Khurasiya, having trained at the 54-year-old's academy in Indore since the age of 12. As Khurasiya recounts, Madhav, whose father has a transport and logistics business, was a reluctant bowler to begin with.

"Those kids who bat well generally don't like bowling. He was one of those kids who loved batting," Khurasiya told *The Hindu*. "He never enjoyed bowling, but he somehow took my advice. I have been particular about everyone developing both the fundamental skills in the game."

Hockey coach Baldev to be honoured with Padma Shri

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Baldev Singh.

Baldev Singh, who turned the quaint town of Shahabad Markanda into a conveyor belt for elite hockey talent, will be conferred the country's prestigious civilian honour – Padma Shri – by President Droupadi Murmu on May 25, officials said on Wednesday.

The 75-year-old Baldev arrived in Shahabad Markanda in 1982 as a coach with the Haryana Sports Department and served there for four years. He returned to the town in 1993, turning the hockey nursery into one of "the most productive centres for hockey talent", they said.

Beginning his professional career with the Namdhari Hockey team, Bhaini Sahib, and armed with a diploma in hockey coaching from the National Institute of Sports (NIS), Bengaluru, in the early eighties,

With the academy becoming a provincial engine for the sport, Baldev occupied pivotal roles within hockey's competitive apparatus, serving as chief coach and selector of the junior men's team in 1993, assistant coach of the Indian side that won the Champions Trophy in Madras in 1996. From 2001 to 2004, he served as coach of the Indian men's team and guided it to a gold at the 2004 Asia Cup.

Plans to hike Korea Open prize money dropped over LIV Golf's struggles

Agence France-Presse
CHUNCHEON (S. KOREA)

Golf's Asian Tour said on Wednesday that it had axed a planned increase in prize money for this week's Korea Open, just weeks after announcing a $500,000 cash boost from LIV Golf.

The LIV injection would have pushed the total prize fund from around $1 million to a record $1.5 million for the historic tournament first played in 1958. However, on Wednesday, a statement said: "The Asian Tour can confirm that the prize money for the Kolon Korea Open has been revised to the original amount of South Korea won (KRW) 1.4 billion, the same as last year.

"We communicated this revision to our members following an update from the title sponsor Kolon. The champion will receive a bonus of KRW 200 million as previously announced."

In April, the Asian Tour had announced the Korea Open prize fund boost to great fanfare. However, just a week later, Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) said it would cease bankrolling LIV after the 2026 season, having plunged a reported $5 billion into the breakaway circuit since 2021.

It has left the rebel tour facing an uncertain future as it scrambles to find new investors and sponsors. A number of LIV players, including two-time US Masters champion Bubba Watson, will be in the field for the Korea Open which begins on Thursday.

LIV has also been bankrolling the International Series, leaving in doubt the future of the mini-circuit elevated events which each offer $2 million in prize money and a pathway to the LIV tour.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Engrades beats Vultures

Engrades CC defeated Vultures CC by four wickets in the pre-quarterfinal of the KSCA under-16 inter-club tournament here.

The scores: Pre-quarterfinals:

Vultures CC 160/4 in 33 overs (Aaryan Nagesh 57, Akhieera Allan 55 n.o.) lost to Engrades CC 164/6 in 31.3 overs (Samvit Shastri 50) (overs reduced due to wet outfield).

City Gymkhana 275/2 in 49 overs (Arnav Manchale 62, Sachith Shetty 103 n.o., H.S. Siddharth 77) bt Jayanagar United Cricketers 159 in 38.2 overs (Trishaan Sethi 44) lost to Bangalore SC 162/5 in 34.1 overs (Viaan Joshi 46 n.o.).

Vijaya CC 224 in 46.3 overs (Hruthik Kumar 41, Ahaan Dash 52, Paarth Madan 54) lost to Young Lions Club 228/8 in 49.4 overs (Deekshith Gowda 40, Kushal Gowda 66).

RVCE Gymkhana 204 in 49.3 overs (S.N. Avaneesha 45) bt Bangalore United (1) 177 in 45.3 overs (Aarav Bajaj 66, Chirayu Vishesh 4/31).

Visweswarapuram (1) 160 in 45.4 overs (Sanjit Sathish 50) lost to Spartons SC 161 for no loss in 40 overs (Ryan Tomar 59 n.o., Ronav Budala 86 n.o).

Blue Diamond Cricketers 168 in 49.2 overs lost to Herons CC 169/2 in 30.5 overs (V. Noraj 81, P. Yateesh 46 n.o.).

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